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*Middle East & North Africa*

*Vol V No 106* *1 June 1978*

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# DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

# MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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(67)

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'ARAFAT MEETS WITH LEBANESE PATRIOTIC FRONT

JN301812Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday met with a delegation of the Patriotic Front led by Kamal Shatila and made up of 'Isma Mahairi and 'Abdallah al-Amin. The meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

JN311815Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting this morning in Damascus under Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the meeting discussed general Palestinian issues and organizational matters and also reviewed current developments.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES LETTER FROM GDR LEADERS

JN311926Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 May--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a letter from leaders of the GDR yesterday. The Palestinian news agency, which reported this, declined to disclose anything about the contents of the letter it said 'Arafat received when he met with the GDR ambassador in Beirut. The agency said that during the meeting, 'Arafat and the GDR ambassador discussed the current situation in Lebanon and bilateral relations.

ABU JIHAD MEETS WITH SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

JN301808Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces, met in Damascus at noon today with Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian armed forces and minister of defense. The meeting was attended by brother Sa'd ad-Din Ghandur, Fatah representative in Syria.

The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the situation in the region in general, as well as with ways to coordinate Syrian-Palestinian relations.

AL-WATAN REPORTS PALESTINIAN COUNCIL PLANNED

NC311135Y Doha QNA in English 1035 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, May 31 (QNA)--The Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN in a dispatch from Beirut said today that a delegation representing five Palestinian organisations that stand for the rejectionist forces has asked the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) for the formation of a command council for the Palestinian revolution with almost all Palestinian factions participating. This is to pose as the political and military leadership of the resistance and its decisions are binding to the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Fatah movement, the paper added, has approved in princple the said proposal and asked for some time to discuss it with the Fatah Central Committee.

The paper affirmed that the projected council will be formed within the coming few weeks if nothing extraordinary happens. It will be, however, one of the most important developments on the Palestinian arena.

The paper AL-WATAN pointed out that the five mentioned organisations which forwarded that proposal are the Popular Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, the struggle front and the democratic front. These are the same organisations that have submitted a memorandum to the Fatah movement earlier this month asking for participation in the Palestinian political decision-taking process.

Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, indicated in his yesterday statements that the above organisations have proposed forming a council that comprises the secretaries general and representatives of the Central Committee and the Fatah movement so that the Palestinian decision may be of the council's own making.

Khalid al-Hasan also implicitly pointed to the refusal of that proposal and that another one including the secretaries of organisations was put forward to the PLO Executive Committee.

PLO'S MUHSIN EXPLAINS LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN ACCORD

JN271033Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 27 May--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti minister of foreign affairs, and Zuhayr Muhsin, chief of the PLO Military Department, today discussed the situation in the Arab area and the Palestinian issue.

Following the meeting, Muhsin stated that his visit to Kuwait is to hold discussions and consultations with officials in Kuwait with the aim of reach total understanding and accord in the Palestinian and Kuwaiti viewpoints.

Regarding the recent Palestinian-Lebanese agreement, Muhsin explained that the agreement was not between 'Arafat and the Lebanese Government but between the Palestinian leadership and the Lebanese Government. The agreement, he addod, expressed the deep desire to enable the Lebanese Government to cope with its complicated problems both inside the country and in confronting the Zionist enemy.

Zuhayr Muhsin explained that opposition in the ranks of the resistance is natural. He said: "One of the five leaders who expressed opposition participated in the meetings between the Palestinian leadership and the Lebanese prime minister, and approved everything that was agreed upon during the meeting.

Fatah's Salih Comments

JN271752Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Salih, Fatah Central Committee member, has talked about the meeting which was held at the headquarters of the Independent Nasirite Movement--Al-Murabitun, which was attended by brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement--Al-Murabitun] and Dr George Habash.

Abu Salih said: This meeting is an extension of the activity being undertaken by the Fatah Central Committee with the aim of deepening the unity of struggle between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in order to face the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots.

Abu Salih added that during this meeting Fatah asserted its firm stand and intention to repulse these colonialist plots, which are aimed at imposing capitulation on the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Talking about southern Lebanon, Abu Salih said: The Fatah movement has benefited from its previous experiences, which proved the impossibility of finding a real and lasting solution to the problem of the south outside a comprehensive solution for the whole of Lebanon. He then attacked the advocates of partial solutions and said: Those who call for partial solutions are themselves advocates of plans to divide Lebanon and link it with suspicious schemes. He further said: Any solution which is not based in letter and spirit on the Cairo agreement cannot be realized.

Brother Abu Salih went on to say: If there are some who imagine that they are able to impose a solution contradictory to the interests of the Lebanese Arab people and their nationalist movement, we stress the falsity of this delusion, because Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion is solid, strong and capable of thwarting all attempts to strike at this cohesion and this alliance, which is supported by the will of the fighters from the sons of both the Lebanese and Palestinian struggling peoples.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS, ADOPTS DECISIONS

JN261623Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee met in Beirut last night. During the meeting, the committee discussed the various aspects of the current situation and the outcome of the PLO Central Council meetings recently held in the Syrian capital.

The committee discussed the results of the agreement reached between brother Commander Abu 'Ammar and the political adviser to the UN secretary general. The committee also discussed the situation in southern Lebanon and adopted the appropriate decisions.

ABU IYAD MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN, JORDANIAN WORKERS

JN261732Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, last night met with the cadres of the Palestinian and Jordanian Workers Federation at the school of the cadres' organization.

Brother Abu Iyad reviewed the political situation and the recent developments in the area. Abu Iyad then answered the questions asked by the workers. It is worth mentioning that brother Abu Iyad and several members of the Fatah Central Committee will tour a number of Arab states within the next few days.

VOP: 6 STUDENTS ARRESTED AT BIR ZAYT UNIVERSITY

JN311919Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] The Israeli occupation authorities yesterday arrested six girl students of Bir Zayt University when they refused to pay fines demanded last month by a Zionist military court in Ramallah. The Israelis claim that the girls participated in demonstrations which swept Ramallah district, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip last March following the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. The Zionist court in Ramallah demanded 3 months imprisonment or a fine of 8,000 Israeli pounds. However, the girls--Suha Abu Khatir, Maha Sha'rawi, Faizah 'Abd an-Nabi, 'Inayah 'Abd as-Samad, Raja' al-Kharuf and Terez Sabila--refused to pay the fines because they did not accept the charges brought against them.

## OMAN

### MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEAVES FOR RABAT

LD311426Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] Muscat--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zawawi left Muscat for Rabat today on a few days visit to Morocco during which he will hand a message to King Hassan of Morocco from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### DEFENSE MINISTER ON PLANE PURCHASES, FRENCH ROLE IN AFRICA

LD311242Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Azia has stated that at present the kingdom has no need to search for other sources from which to purchase aircraft after the United States agreed to supply it with a number of F-15 aircraft. His royal highness denied that the kingdom has reached an agreement with France to be supplied with Mirage fighter aircraft. He said this subject has not been discussed by the Saudi and French sides.

In a statement carried by AL-JAZIRAH today, Prince Sultan stated that the kingdom is concentrating its resources and efforts on the Middle East question, considering it the most important Arab question, in addition to the assistance it extends to the development programs in a number of Arab, Islamic and friendly countries. He said that there is no truth at all in what was recently spread by information media about the kingdom's readiness to help in continuing the French role, especially the French role in events in Africa. His royal highness stressed that what is being rumored about the kingdom's assistance regarding the events taking place in Africa on the side of the major powers is not true.

### KING ENDS VISIT TO FRANCE; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

For reportage on the visit of King Khalid and the Saudi delegation to Paris and the final communique issued at the end of the talks, see the France section of the 1 June Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

### INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON ALGERIAN ACCUSATIONS

LD311712Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 May 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Geneva--by telephone from Ahmad al-Jarallah--Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani told AS-SIYASAH that King Khalid's visit to France takes place within Saudi Arabia's policy of bringing friends together on the one hand, and consolidating friendship with them on the other.

Asked about Algeria's accusations against Saudi Arabia regarding its role in the Arab world and in international politics, his excellency the Saudi information minister said: Saudi Arabia has received all that has been published in the Algerian papers and also all the statements that have been made during the past 24 hours. It hopes that what has been published is just press speculation and that it does not represent the views of the Algerian Government. But should it be proved otherwise, it would be regrettable.

The information minister added: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom is convinced that what it is doing is consistent with its policy of supporting Arab causes on the one hand, and Islamic causes in general on the other. The policy of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is well-known: It is based on bringing the Arabs together, overcoming their disputes and closing their ranks. It also supports the cause of progress and the raising of the Arab man's living standards.

The kingdom hopes that all that was published in Algeria was mere press speculation, since it believes that the time for press demagogery has gone and that it is only what is good that lasts. The kingdom believes that this is the time when the press should bring the Arabs together, support them and help them to speak with one voice.

'UKAZ VIEWS DANGERS THREATENING ARAB NATION

ID311528Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 May 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The current Saudi-Egyptian talks aim at enhancing joint Arab responsibility for the achievement of Arab solidarity based on full awareness and sound realization of the requirements of the present phase during which dangers to the Arab nation and even to the very Arab existence are escalating. Zionism is not the only danger. The communist tide which wants to swallow up Africa and plunder its wealth also calls for an Arab confrontation aware of such imminent and distant plans.

This communist danger which is threatening Africa knows no limits in its ambitions and its plans do not stop at any boundaries. Rather it aims at creating tension and division and undermining every peace opportunity so that in such an atmosphere it can achieve its objectives, sometimes through false and misleading slogans, sometimes through armed aggression, and other times through arousing communal and tribal strife.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Zionist and communist plans and thinking should agree; an agreement recently led to the Soviet Union opening the gates of emigration to Israel so as to provide it with new manpower that would enable it to implement Israeli expansionist ambitions in the Arab territories.

All these dangers call for an Arab stand. The problem no longer concerns only the occupied Arab territories but also involves the very Arab existence, which is the primary aim of the Zionist-communist schemes.

Arab awareness must be up to the level of this grave responsibility. These dangers must be confronted by forging a strong Arab stand that will contribute to thwarting such schemes and preserve for the Arab struggle its ability to constantly move and to act against these schemes. There is no sharper weapon than Arab solidarity in facing these dangers, for it is the bulwark of Arab strength and its inexhaustible means for preserving and protecting Arab existence against its many enemies.

UAE

TANZANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN311413Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1157 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 May--A Tanzanian delegation headed by State Minister Abdullah Natepe arrived here today on a few days' visit to the UAE.

Natepe said on arrival that he is bringing a letter for His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere dealing with relations between the two countries.

YAR

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI ADDRESSES NEW CABINET

JN231906Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] The prime minister and the members of his new cabinet took the constitutional oath at 0830 today at the presidential palace before Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Later, the brother president held a meeting with the prime minister and the members of the new government during which he gave them his wise counsel to help them in their work during the next phase.

The brother president said: You all know that we are living a true democratic life. Therefore, we must be fully aware of our great responsibilities toward our people and homeland. I want everyone to experience the people's daily problems.

The brother president and leader said: Every one of you must exert double efforts and go out to all parts of the republic to acquaint himself with the problems of the citizens and find solutions for them. Government responsibility is not trips abroad and travel allowances, but daily experiencing our problems and all that our country wants in the way of services, development and so forth.

The brother president and leader concluded his remarks by saying: I am sure that you will do all you can in the performance of the duty entrusted to you. May God grant you success in the service of our nation and homeland--the service which our people are expecting of us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI ADDRESSES ARMY CAMP

JN271425Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 1030 today, brother leader Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, returned to San'a' by land from Al-Hudaydah at the end of an inspection tour. During the tour he visited the governorates of Ta'izz and Al-Hudaydah.

Brother leader Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi this morning made an inspection visit to (Badil) camp where he was received by the Al-Hudaydah brigade commander, the general reserve forces commander and the (Badil) camp commander, who delivered a speech in which he welcomed the brother leader president.

The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces then delivered the following speech:

In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate; prayers and peace be upon His faithful prophet; my brothers the general reserve officers and (Badil) camp officers: I extend to you greetings of fraternity and companionship. I am proud of [word indistinct] the unit of which I was a member. The general reserve forces, like the armed forces, are the protective shield. These forces have struggled and sacrificed several of their men. They will also remain the honest guards of this country and its great accomplishments. Be confident that I am with you and with all our armed forces, heart and soul. We shall all carry on with our march for the protection of the revolution and the republic, defending the homeland as trustworthy guards. May God give us success for the welfare of this homeland and the armed forces. Peace be upon you.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister, accompanied by Brother Muhammad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs and finance minister, also returned to San'a' at 1200 today from Al-Hudaydah, where they accompanied the president of the republic on his visit to that district.

SAUDI ARABIA PAYS YAR'S SHARE TO INVESTMENT COMPANY

JN301607Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 30 May--The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has paid the YAR's contribution to the capital of the Arab Investment Company. This contribution amounts to $1 million. It has been paid within the framework of the work of the Saudi-Yemeni coordination council headed by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation.

YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has stated that with this payment Yemen has become a member in the company and can thus benefit from its various services. Al-Asnaj praised Saudi-Yemeni cooperation, which will provide all that is good for the Yemeni march toward erecting the foundations of its economy and consolidating its development plan so that it can achieve its aims.

The Arab Investment Company, established in 1974 with Riyadh as its headquarters, is made up of 15 Arab states. Its present capital amounts to $300 million.

PDRY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

JN302024Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Mahmud 'Ushaysh, minister of communications in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in San'a' this afternoon. He was received at the airport by the brother communications minister and the president's personal representative.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother Mahmud 'Ushaysh announced that he brought a message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister in the southern part of the homeland, to Brother Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

'Ushaysh said that his visit to the homeland comes as part of a series of contacts and visits between officials in the two parts of the homeland with the aim of serving the interests of the Yemeni people.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY JAPANESE MEDIA

LD312220Y Cairo MENA in English 1725 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, May 31 (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat said today [as received] that the peace process which started six months ago did not come to a deadlock although it lost "to a great extent, the momentum." The president asserted that this situation cannot continue for long as the Israelis cannot live separated from the whole world opinion.

If the Israelis choose to have land and peace, they shall not have land or peace, the president added. The president reiterated that the Palestinian question is crux of the whole problem and that peace cannot be established without solving this problem.

President as-Sadat made it clear that his proposal for the return of Gaza Strip to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan was an attempt from him to facilitate the whole process and try to give it some momentum. This proposal calls for the return to the status before the 1967 war as stipulated in the United Nations Resolution 242, President as-Sadat added.

President as-Sadat described his proposal as an attempt to "find some way to break this vicious circle that we are about to enter again". President as-Sadat [affirmed] Egypt's rejection of any Israeli settlements on the Egyptian land. Israel has asked for such settlements and had asked for two aerodromes in Sinai but "we refused this and we shall refuse this also, because we are not ready to surrender any part of our land", President as-Sadat indicated.

President as-Sadat then stated the measure which can be accepted by Egypt to meet the Israeli security needs. These measures can be summed up in the six following points:

1: Demiilitarized zones on the borders.

2: A limited armament area.

3: The presence of United Nations forces in the demilitarized zones.

4: The presence of early warning stations.

5: The peace agreement would state that the Aqaba Gulf is an international waterway.

6: After the peace agreement, the borders would be opened as well as living in good neighbourhood, and the formation of a combined committee to supervise the implementation of the peace agreement.

Following is the full text of the interview President as-Sadat granted to Japanese TV and the newspaper ASAHI.

Question: Mr. President, we should like to express our gratitude and appreciation to you for giving us this opportunity to hear directly from your [word indistinct] and to convey it to the Japanese audience.

President: Thank you.

Question: Now we would like to ask you about the peace of the Middle East, the present situation, future prospects, all from the point of view of directly involved countries and from the wider viewpoint of the entire world.

Mr. President, your peace initiative, started by your historic visit to Jerusalem last November is now apparently coming to a deadlock. You have repeatedly mentioned that you are still optimistic about it. Is your optimism based on your anticipation that Israel would change its stand or is it because you intend to bring forth some new ideas for breaking through this deadlock?

President: Well, before I start, really, let me seize this opportunity and ask you to convey to our friends the Japanese people and the Japanese Government our gratitude for the help we receive from Japan either in the Suez Canal or in other places, and we are very proud because we can have the new technology from someone near to us. You are Orientals like us. We are very proud to receive the new technology and so we look forward, really for much broader aspects of cooperation.

In answer to your question, we can say this. The peace process, after six months or more now, is not in the favourable momentum. We can't use the word deadlock, because deadlock means that everything is about to become a failure. No, it is not failure until this moment, it is only that the peace process as I told you has lost some, or to a great extent, the momentum. but still the peace process is in very slow momentum.

When you ask me about optimism and so, let me tell you this, as a fact I said that by nature I am optimistic and a villager, and in the village we learn faith in God, faith in our land, in our capabilities to overcome whatever difficulties we face. So from this side, as I see it, by nature I am optimistic. For sure this situation cannot continue for a long time because the Israeli Government should send their answer and in my view they can't live, I mean, separated from the whole world public opinion for long. This is the second reason. The third reason, (?when you) say are there any new elements, well, from the side of Israel there is a lack in this direction. They didn't provide any new elements but we, as I have stated on the first of May, we shall continue to be open-minded and open-hearted to receive any new elements in this respect and we shall discuss it. From our side for sure there can be new elements but it will depend on the others. Are they really ready to achieve peace or not, or do they prefer to have land rather than peace?

Question: Do you have any intention to bring forth some new ideas in the near future?

Answer: As I told you, it will depend upon the other side. If the other side, as I said, is willing to adhere to what the whole public opinion all over the world asks for and that is peace, for sure we shall find no difficulty in this. There will be new ideas. There will be everything. But, as I said, if they choose to have land and peace they shall not have land or peace, at all.

Question: Mr. President, Mr. Begin has not given any response to your peace initiative. There is some criticism that you expected from Mr. Begin too much. What is your opinion about such criticism?

President: You mean criticism from my side or I am criticized?

Question: Some criticism about you.

President: That I am criticized. Well, in such a case like this, solving a problem that is thirty years old, and with also years and years before those thirty years when Israel was created, and with a heritage of bitterness, four wars, violence, hatred.

All this can't be solved like that in one or two or three or five or six months. It is natural that it may take some time. But really I don't give any heed to this criticism, because the initiative has already captured the imagination of the whole world, and instead of it being an Egyptian initiative it is now the initiative of the whole peace-loving people all over the world. From America in the West to Japan in the East. Everyone now is really endorsing this initiative, for peace, because the whole world needs peace. All of us need peace. So I don't give heed to this criticism and because I have stated before also, that whenever I find that there is a failure or there is a deadlock that we can't come out from, for sure I shall be telling my people, I shall be telling the whole world, and we shall start to think over other ways.

Question: Mr. President, could you describe Mr. Begin as a counterpart of the peace negotiation?

Answer: I can't get you really.

Question: How do you estimate Mr. Begin?

Answer: Well, for sure I have met with Begin twice: Once in Jerusalem and the second time was in Ismailia, here in Egypt. The man belongs to what we call the old guard in Israel. He was not born in this area, like others who have been born here in this area, to know or to understand the way of dealing here. As the man is one of the old guard, it was not, I mean, a surprise that he holds such ideas like these. But I think any time he could understand that such a line like this will not bring peace.

Question: Mr. President, one of the most complicated issues in the Middle East peace settlement is undoubtedly the Palestinian problem. It was recently reported that you have made new proposals in which you suggested the return of the Gaza Strip to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan. As for its prospects, did this come to help to settle the problem eventually? What is your true intention in making this proposal?

Answer: You see, in the first place, and I quite agree with you that the Palestinian question is the core and crux of the whole problem. Without solving the Palestinian problem we can't establish peace here in the area. This is a fact. My last proposal really was as an alternative to other proposals to facilitate the whole process, to give it some new momentum. My idea is this: Let us return to the status before the 67 war. This means according to the United Nations Resolution 242. Because it says this, that the land that was occupied after the 67 war should be returned, the Arab land. So I am trying to find some way to break this vicious circle that we are about to enter again.

Question: And how about the response of Mr. Weizman?

Answer: Well, you know, Mr. Weizman is the Israeli defence minister. He is also one of the main supporters of Begin in his party "Herut", and he can't express except what Begin permits him to express. But the man as a whole really is very agreeable and I like him.

Question: Mr. President, would Egypt sign a separate agreement with Israel in the frame-work of a comprehensive peace settlement?

Answer: No, no. For the very simple reason that the signature of a separate agreement will not establish peace in the area because the Palestinian problem will always remain the main important item to establish peace in the area.

Even not only if Israel reaches an agreement with Egypt, if Israel reaches an agreement with Egypt, Jordan and Syria and the Palestinian question is not solved, we shall never have peace in the area. So, for these reasons, we are not ready at all for a separate peace agreement in spite of the fact that the Soviets are filling the whole Arab world with this word "separate agreement." We had a very interesting talk at some time in this same place where we sit now with Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister, and I told him you shouldn't have brought to our area the slogan of separate agreement because no one is ready or going to do a separate agreement. We have a cause, all of us have our responsibilities, but they are using this to divide the Arab world and to try to fish in troubled waters.

Question: This sounds like all the parties concerned should come into the agreement in one united group?

Answer: Quite right. I must tell you this: it means that whenever we think of a peace settlement it should be comprehensive settlement and we should prepare for it because at the end all the parties concerned should sit and sign together. But for me whenever the Palestinian question is solved, well, there will be no problem at all for any one of us.

Question: Mr President, the PLO seems to pose one of the major obstacles in the peace initiative. Is there any possibility that your relations with Yasir 'Arafat would be improved in the foreseeable future?

Answer: Well, you know, also in this same place I met with Yasir 'Arafat lots of times. And when we were preparing last summer for the Geneva [meeting] before I visited Jerusalem, I met with Yasir 'Arafat here and he was ready to join in Geneva. He agreed in principle upon my proposal that any Palestinian state should have a link with Jordan, but we differed on the timing. I said that they should declare this before we go to Geneva so that we can get rid of the Israeli argument and Yasir 'Arafat said well, let us wait until the Palestinian state comes into being and then after that we can negotiate this link.

But in principle he has no objection at all. Well now after he was pushed by Syria and the Soviet Union I don't know what he is thinking of because he has joined in what was called the rejection camp that attacked us and before that he attacked us in the first disengagement agreement and in the second agreement but after that he came. Also I have no direct contact with him now but whenever he chooses to come to Cairo my people will see him but me myself I shall not be in a position to meet anyone who abused Egypt or insulted Egypt at all and even he need not come to Cairo because Cairo here with its historical responsibilities will always serve the big cause of the Arab world because this is the responsibility of Egypt all over history.

Question: Mr President, if the PLO's position remains unchanged do you think other Palestinian representatives, for instance a West Bank leader, would be the first instead in the future peace negotiations?

President: There must be a fact and this fact is known to President Carter and to Mr Begin and this fact says that no one is entitled to determine the future of the Palestinians from behind their backs. The Palestinians should join in any agreement which determines their future. This fact is known to President Carter and to Mr Begin and we have declared it and it is our policy.

Replying to a question President as-Sadat clarified some misunderstandings concerning the PLO and Egypt saying no one is entitled to determine the future of the Palestinians behind their backs. They should join us in every way in determining their future.

When I made my proposal, the last one that you have asked me about, returning the West Bank of the River Jordan to King Husayn and the Gaza Strip to Egypt and [as received] we shall sit and discuss security issues with Israel. The rest of my proposal is that the United Nations and representatives of the Palestinians should sit with us. I am not going to speak for the Palestinians at all and King Husayn also cannot speak for the Palestinians.

Question: In that case 'Arafat should be included?

President: I have said quite plainly when I say the Palestinians I mean Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters, those who are under occupation, Palestinians, I mean all of them.

Question: If the present stalemate would continue, how long would Egypt keep diplomatic efforts? Do you have any intention to bring the whole issue back to the United Nations or how about the Geneva conference?

President: Well, for the first point, my answer is this: As I told you before, whenever I feel that we have reached a deadlock, and the whole world public opinion who has supported me and my initiative--I shall be putting everything before them--after that I shall be trying other ways and this will mean that I shall be returning to my people here and putting everything before them. The Egyptian Security Council will meet and decide for the future. But as for the Geneva conference, we are ready to go to Geneva. The Cairo conference as I have already declared and expressed is only a preparatory conference for Geneva. Why? Because if we go to Geneva without good preparation and without reaching agreement upon the principal ideas in the agreement, Geneva would have been like we are now. It would have been a stalemate and much more it would have been a very dangerous situation. Why? Because we went to Geneva and everything failed. So we are after Geneva. We are ready to go to Geneva but through good preparations so that Geneva may not be a failure and then a dangerous position is created after that.

Answering a question on the peace process President as-Sadat said: As I told you before, let us see what has resulted after my initiative. The whole world public opinion is endorsing now my initiative and considers it as its own initiative for peace. Number 2, this arms deal that has been agreed upon by the U.S. Senate and Congress has been agreed upon and a new understanding for the problem in the Middle East has taken place all over the world and in the United States itself. So the initiative has not proved to be a failure.

About the time limit I can't say really what would be the time limit. I told you rather that the time limit--let me tell you this--until we reach the point that there is no hope in any continuation in this respect, I mean in the peace process, until that we shall be continuing our efforts and to be open-minded and open-hearted for any new element to come.

Question: So Mr President, you don't have to hurry in anything?

Answer: It is not hurry. As I told you it is a very old problem and at the same time a very complicated one really. You may have heard me in the Knesset when I said that 75 percent of the whole problem is a psychological one.

It appears that this psychological problem still lives in the mind of Mr Begin as one of the old guard and his government. So I should like not to put any certain date or so but there will be a very big test next October. Why? Because next October, I mean in four or five months, the second disengagement agreement between Egypt and Israel will expire and there will be the problem of renewing the mandate for the United Nations forces. There will be the problem of what will be the relations after the agreement itself expires.

Question: Mr. President, while your peace initiative is warmly welcomed all over the world, it brought about what is called the rejectionist camp. You know that for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East, it is fundamentally necessary that there is unity among the Arab countries. Do you expect to be able to reconcile with the rejectionist camp? Suppose somebody could do the role of mediator, such as Saudi Arabia or President Numayri of the Sudan?

Answer: Let me tell you this quite frankly. This talk about Arab solidarity and the rejection camp was really exaggerated. Why? We are in the same position that we used to be in. Let me tell you this: During the October war, even before the October war, Libya has taken no share either before or during the October war or after the October war. Iraq, when the Arabs put on the armbargo, Iraq declared officially that they are not with the embargo and they sold their oil.

Iraq did not join in the help that our Arab colleagues made to us. It came mainly from the gulf. Iraq has taken no share except one hundred million dollars only, and I suspect if they have already paid it or not, while the others in the gulf helped us economically and militarily. So this is the situation of Libya and Iraq. Algeria, they have never taken any commitment upon themselves with our Arab colleagues also. Syria, Syria is receiving its arms from the Soviet Union and it is playing the old American-Russian card. And they think that this will enable them to be in such a position. But, as we see, they have reached nothing at all. So, the talk about solidarity is very exaggerated now. We are in the same position that we used to be in. Lately President Numayri came and I told him I have no objection to any summit meeting, either date or place. I have no objection to restore my diplomatic relations with the rejection camp if they choose to ask for this. We have no objection at all. So there is nothing new in the Arab situation, more than that what was called the rejectionist camp. I thought it will survive for six or seven months. It survived for two or three months and every one started abusing each other. Libya now is abusing Syria, Algeria and Iraq; Syria is abusing Libya; Iraq is abusing all of them so really I thought it may survive six months or so; it hasn't survived two or three months at all. This is the real situation. With Saudi Arabia we have very close relations, contacts and cooperation, and you must have heard that ten days before the vice-president visited Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Last week my foreign minister visited Saudi Arabia also.

Question: Mr. President, you have repeatedly mentioned that success of the Middle East peace settlement lies ninety-nine percent in the hands of the United States. But some are afraid, however, that Egypt over-estimates the United States' role.

Answer: Well, I used to say this before my initiative, and let me repeat it again after the initiative also. Well, why did I say this? I said it because, let us be practical, the line of life for Israel goes from the United States to Israel. The line of life, starting from the loaf of bread until the F-16.

Everything. So why shouldn't we be practical and say that the United States has the biggest role in the whole thing. And then, the only party that can make any pressure or have any influence with Israel is the United States. This is what I have already said. Well, you are asking me that maybe I have over-estimated the role of the United States. No. Let me tell you this again now. The United States should act as a full partner, as I told President Carter the last time I was in the United States, last February, two or three months before, they should take their responsibility as a full partner. Without this, it is very difficult to reach any agreement with Israel.

Question: Mr. President, the shipment of American arms to Egypt and Saudi Arabia is thought to further disturb the careful equilibrium in the Arab-Israeli conflict. What do you say about this?

Answer: No, well, you shouldn't use this argument because this is an Israeli argument. You shouldn't say it. Well, this is completely wrong, because Israel now is a very huge arsenal of arms. What the senate has agreed upon, really, for Egypt and Saudi Arabia, is just a drop in the ocean of the big arsenal in Israel. So, on the contrary, it facilitates and makes it possible to reach a settlement because by this, the United States is not putting for instance, an embargo on me like the Soviet Union is doing now while I am asking to defend my country. I don't want to attack anyone, but I am asking to defend my country. I think this, on the contrary, this facilitates the peace process. But don't use the Israeli argument.

Question: Mr President, could you compare Dr. Kissinger's diplomacy with President Carter's and Mr. Vance's diplomacy on the Middle East problem?

Answer: Well, let me tell you this: I have known three presidents: Nixon with Kissinger, Ford with Kissinger, and Carter with Vance, and I had dealing with them. All of them are my friends, really, but I had a much closer friendship with Kissinger. It appears that there was a lot of common ground for both of us to stand on. But let me tell you this, President Carter is a man to be trusted and a man of his word, and also of principle, and this is something very important and I am really very happy with it. We have developed a very close friendship, even more than friendship, President Carter and myself. As for Mr. Secretary Vance, let me tell you this is a dear friend, really. The man, whenever he goes, whenever he deals with anyone, they tell you this man Vance is honest, really, and I like him very much. The man is straightforward. As I told you the man is to be trusted like President Carter. So when you ask me to compare them, I tell you they are all my friends.

Question: Is the United States of America what you call a full partner right now?

Answer: Not yet. Not yet. I am asking this. I have already asked last February, while I was in the United States, and I have declared it also after I arrived here and gave my parliament and my people a report about my visit. I have also told this to all the European countries that I visited on my way back from the States to Egypt. I met all of them, Callaghan, Schmidt, Ceausescu, Kriesky in Austria, d'Estaing in France, Leone in Italy and the pope, all of them. I told them.

Question: Mr. President, an everlasting peace in the Middle East, we think, cannot have adequate guarantees without the cooperation of the Soviet Union. How about this opinion?

Answer: We have no objection at all against the Soviet Union joining with us and having their share of responsibility. We have no objection to this at all. But we don't want anyone to force anything on us or to be a guardian for us. We have reached the age of maturity; we don't want a guardian. But the Soviet Union is welcome to come. I invited them to come in the Cairo conference to prepare for Geneva, but for certain reasons they refused. Then they attacked my initiative when I visited Jerusalem, when they have asked me five years before, in 72, while I was visiting there, they tried to ask me to meet with Golda Meir in Tashkent. They told my ambassador to convey this to me, and my ambassador told them you shouldn't mention this before As-Sadat because he will be very furious. Why? Because at that time it would have meant surrender, because we were defeated and we didn't prove ourselves in the October war. After we proved ourselves to the whole world, and to the Israelis in the first place, I made my initiative. But this is the controversial issue of the Soviet Union. It is against the initiative now because I made it, and have close contact with Carter, but they were with any initiative of the same nature while we were defeated.

Question: Mn President, the Soviets seem to be stepping up their political and military interference in the Middle East and Africa. Isn't it threatening to the Middle East peace?

Answer: For sure, it is not only threatening for the Middle East peace but for the peace all over the world. I have declared this and I am declaring it again.. The actions of the Soviet Union either in this area or in Africa really are a great danger to peace.

Question: Mr. President, we know that you highly evaluate the role of Japan in the economic field, but is there any role Japan can play in the political field in a Middle East settlement?

Answer: Yes, Japan can play a very important role now because as I told you Israel can't continue to be isolated from the public opinion of the whole world. Japan, with its position which is considered by lots all over the world, they are a big power and sometimes they say why shouldn't Japan join as a big power and have a veto at the Security Council like the five big powers. So I think Japan with all its weight and its [word indistinct] can play a very important role in bringing those people in Israel, the government, to reason.

Question: Mn President, in the proposed visit of our prime minister, Mr Takeo Fukuda, to Cairo, which is scheduled for the end of this year, what are the major topics you would like to discuss?

Answer: Well, for sure we shall be discussing the problem here in the Middle East area and we shall be also discussing as I told you the possibility of broadening the cooperation and help that we receive from Japan, and because we are in need of the new technology, and you have it there in Japan, and as I told you we are proud really here. So we shall be discussing this also with him and then the situation around us in the whole world, because this situation is changing from day to day, really, now.

Question: Mr. President, latest reports from Jerusalem said that the Israeli Government would discuss some important proposals by the American Government. Has America made such proposals also to Egypt?

Answer: Really I know nothing about this except what I read today in the newspapers and was published in an Israeli newspaper yesterday. It said that the United States has put two questions for the Israeli Government to answer, and they said that those two questions concern the Gaza Strip and the Western Bank, but I was not notified by the United States about those questions. I read them today just in the newspaper just like anyone read it. They may be like this; there may be other questions; I don't know, but from our part we didn't receive anything from the Americans.

Question: Last of all, may I ask you, what do you think is the most important thing to do now for the strengthening of peace in the Middle East?

Answer: A common effort from all the peace-loving people all over the world to make Israel see the facts so that we can achieve peace in the area. And it is not difficult. I repeat again it is feasible, very feasible, whenever the Israeli Government drops the psychological problem that they have lived in during the last thirty years.

Question: You mentioned you will never resort to war as a means of resolving the dispute any more, even if the peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel completely broke down. Do you keep this determination?

Answer: I have already said it quite clearly before the whole world and in the United States and in Jerusalem also. I said let us work towards the fact that the October war should be the last of the wars.

Until this moment, I am holding the same opinion, as I told you, but it takes two to make this decision. It is not only me that should make this decision; the other party also should agree to it. So this is my answer. And let me tell you this, there is an English proverb that says "Let us not cross the bridge until we reach it."

Question: Could we expect another dramatic initiative before the expiry of the disengagement agreement?

Answer: Well, until this moment I have nothing in mind, believe me. I have nothing in mind.

MINISTER KAMIL ADDRESSES DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

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[Text] New York, 31 May--Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has emphasized the importance of the role which is being played by the United Nations--the representative of the international will--in assuming responsibility for disarmament and in promoting the efforts to achieve disarmament under effective international supervision.

In a speech he made today on Egypt's behalf to the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, the Egyptian foreign minister announced that Egypt supports the international efforts aimed at emerging from this session with a clear emphasis on the UN role. This role should mean that all phases of diarmament--such as debates, exchanges of viewpoints, negotiations and the preparation of agreements and their implementation--will be achieved through the UN organs. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stressed the importance of the issue of war and peace and the historical challenge posed to mankind by this issue--a challenge which renders disarmament and the halting of the arms race a principal objective of the contemporary era of international development.

The foreign minister announced that the nonalined states, on the basis of the above-mentioned conviction, have stressed and continue to stress the need for general and complete disarmament. These states have advocated, and continue to advocate, the need to give the international efforts for disarmament a sense of direction and to make them more efficient. This should be done through the United Nations and within the framework of the targets and principles contained in the UN Charter.

He cautioned against the serious situation in the world, describing this as a situation of shaky peace. He said this situation is characterized by anxiety, tension, pessimism and the existence of the arms race.

The foreign minister went on to explain the appeal that the nonalined states have issued, noting that Egypt is proud to be one of the pioneers of the nonalined movement. He said the nonalined appeal stresses the need for the United Nations to meet its basic commitment to preserving world peace and achieving complete and comprehensive disarmament within the UN framework. He added that this call reflects the philosophy and basic principles of the nonalined movement. This philosophy has crystallized and matured in the shadow of nuclear terror, of the conflict and terrifying arms competition among the big powers and in the shadow of lack of respect for the principles of the United Nations. All of these factors, he said, have led to an unjust state of affairs, which, if it continues, will seriously endanger security.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil asserted that the final goal of a comprehensive disarmament program should be based on banning the use of nuclear weapons, stopping production of these weapons and the efforts to make these weapons more sophisticated, and destroying nuclear stockpiles. The structure of this program should be firmly fixed during this session.

He said: We hope we will soon be able to strengthen this treaty. We also hope that preparations will be completed for a treaty totally banning nuclear tests as well as totally banning the development and production of new weapons of mass destruction. This should be done under the supervision of international bodies authorized to implement the commitments contained in the agreements and treaties.

The foreign minister added: We believe these commitments should be honored on a timely basis. The nuclear states have the top priority commitment to begin assuming their responsibilities by cutting back the escalating proliferation in accordance with Article 6 of the Nonproliferation Treaty. He said: We are closely following the SALT negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States. We also welcome their stated desire to reach a new agreement consolidating what they had agreed upon earlier in 1972.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil demanded that efforts be consolidated and directed toward providing a more effective and far-reaching guarantee for those states which pledge to renounce the nuclear alternative. Such a guarantee should take into account the circumstances prevailing in each area and its security requirements.

He announced that the preservation of international peace and security make it imperative to take into account the sensitivity of the situations prevailing in some areas and to tackle the hotbeds of tension in these areas before things get out of hand and the international community is faced with a sudden nuclear escalation which would spell out doom for all the attempts being made to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil emphasized the importance of nuclear disarmament in Africa and the Middle East. He drew attention to the obstacles which Israel and the racist regime in South Africa are raising to prevent this from being achieved.

The foreign minister noted the similarity of the aims of South Africa and Israel. He said both countries are pursuing aggressive policies characterized by defiance of the international will and by repeated grave violations of the provisions of the charter and principles of international law. He said this similarity of aims renders collusion between them in the nuclear field a direct threat to peace and security in these two areas and indeed in the whole world.

As far as Africa is concerned, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said, we have persistently sought--in cooperation with the fraternal African states--to implement the declaration on a "nonnuclear Africa." Despite the international community's support for this endeavor, the South African racist regime's determination to continue its attempts to obtain nuclear weapons to buttress its aggressive racist policies has prevented the continuation of efforts to implement this declaration in practice.

With regard to the Middle East, the foreign minister said that Egypt is aware that the events taking place in this area, which has a distinct strategic position, are linked with international peace and security. Therefore, it is adopting a policy of maintaining just conditions in the area in order to prevent confrontations between the various forces in its belief that any such confrontations could bring the world to the brink of World War III.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added: The wars the Middle East area has suffered because of the Israeli expansionist plans should certainly make the international community realize the immense benefits it will reap by providing the conditions for a just and lasting peace in the area and by turning the entire area into an area of peace.

The foreign minister then recalled the initiative which Iran and Egypt undertook 4 years ago to declare the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. He said that this initiative has come as a positive contribution to the disarmament efforts and to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The foreign minister added: We have persisted in our endeavors to achieve this objective, but Israel's vote was the only exception to international unanimity over the past 4 years when the subject was submitted to successive sessions of the General Assembly. Indeed, Israel still continues to refuse to join the nonproliferation treaty. It is also refusing to subject any of its nuclear activities to the international nuclear energy agency's system of guarantees.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil then called on the international community, represented by the United Nations, to take the necessary steps in accordance with the charter's aims and principles to prevent international peace and security from being threatened as a result of the irresponsible attempts being made by Israel and the South African Government, while taking into consideration the letter and spirit of Security Council Resolution 255 of 1968.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil then called for the need to expedite the establishment of security guarantees which are free from the restrictions that prevent the Security Council from assuming its responsibilities and which will allow it to take effective preventive measures before a nuclear threat occurs and not after.

He pointed out in this respect that the possibility of states acquiring developed nuclear capability without effective international control--states which adopt aggressive policies and have been condemned by the United Nations, such as Israel and South Africa--is sufficient reason for the establishment of such guarantees.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: We hope that these views will get the support of all the states which share our aims and principles and which seek with us the consolidation of world peace on the basis of right and justice.

The foreign minister then discussed the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, particularly as a source of energy. He said: Our fears of the proliferation of nuclear weapons must not dissuade us from the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This is one of the things which the nuclear states must encourage and must not obstruct. This is in the interest of all states, particularly the developing states.

He then expressed Egypt's hope that the agreements it has concluded with some states for peaceful nuclear cooperation will be implemented in the near future in the interest of Egypt's development.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil then moved to discussing the danger of chemical and other mass-destruction weapons and the weapons which cause great damage and indiscriminate harm. He demanded that efforts be exerted to end the use, possession and development of such weapons in accordance with binding agreements. He also called for expediting the conclusion of the treaty for the total banning of the use, development and production of all kinds of chemical weapons and getting rid of such stockpiles as soon as possible.

He pointed out that the efforts that have been exerted to limit these weapons are not sufficient in view of the stockpiles and the use of such weapons, particularly in limited wars. An example of this was what happened in the Middle East when Israel used napalm and cluster bombs against civilian targets.

Kamil pointed out that the nonalined group had called for the banning of the production and development of new conventional weapons and that the gradual reduction and limitation of conventional weapons should be carried out in accordance with defined priorities and within the framework of comprehensive general disarmament measures.

Kamil said: We believe that attempts to gradually reduce conventional weapons and to limit the race to possess and stockpile these weapons should be linked with international security measures, in accordance with the concept and philosophy of the UN Charter. These attempts should also be committed to finding just solutions to the political problems which threaten international peace and security.

The foreign minister pointed to the unjust conditions which exist as a result of using force to impose faits accomplis contrary to the principles of the UN Charter and the rules of law and justice. He said these unjust conditions have imposed on the nonnuclear states, particularly the Third World countries, the burden of armament in order to defend themselves.

Kamil spoke in this context about the situation resulting from the Israeli occupation in the Middle Eastern area and the racist regime in South Africa. He said that when just conditions are established in both these areas, when the legitimate and national rights of the peoples of the area are restored and when their sovereignty and independence has been guaranteed, then Egypt will assiduously and sincerely strive to channel available resources to serve the objectives of development and progress.

Kamil underlined the importance of utilizing resources which can be diverted from military expenditures to strengthening the new international economic order.

Kamil commended the UN secretary general's proposal to form a committee of experts and to allocate a portion of armament expenditures to efforts aimed at achieving national and international disarmament.

The foreign minister concluded his address by requesting session members to work diligently and to cooperate in order to create a momentum capable of fulfilling the hopes of the peoples who aspire for the day when total disarmament will become reality in a world dominated by justice. This, he said, is the real and unshakable basis for security, peace and a prosperous future.

Kamil said: All the suppressed and subjugated people and all the peoples exposed to aggression are looking to the international body to create the conditions that will restore their rights to them so that their hands will hold the tools of construction instead of the tools of destruction and so that all their efforts will be directed toward construction and the achievement of prosperity.

The disarmament session began its meetings on 23 May.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO ASSEMBLY ON TAX LAW

NC3113200Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 May--The People's Assembly met this morning under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. The People's Assembly listened to the special message from President Anwar as-Sadat regarding his excellency's objection to the taxation law.

The text of President as-Sadat's message follows:

Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly: You are accustomed to having me put before you all the facts with faithfulness and sincerity. We are also accustomed to finding our way through objective discussion and constructive dialog with a view to arriving at unity of thought and aim. This unity enables us to decide the general policy of the state and achieve the glory and progress which our people aspire for at a most delicate stage of our struggle--the stage of completing the liberation and completing the building of the society.

The 15 May Revolution, which corrected the course of the Mother July Revolution, was not meant just to remove people from positions of power. It was a historic turning point expressing the deep desire of our masses to change the course and rebuild the society on sound bases. Democratic socialism was our aim and course. Our permanent constitution was issued, consisting of the bases and principles on which the new structure is founded, in a clear and defined manner, requiring no biased and vague interpretations.

The prime objective of the May revolution has been to achieve happiness for the Egyptian citizen on the basis of his realities and aspirations. The Egyptian citizen lives in Egypt and is aware of its circumstances and its problems. He also belongs to a glorious nation which has an independent identity and which is trying to find its way to political unity. This nation is the Arab nation. The Egyptian citizen, [words indistinct] also belongs to the group of nonalined states and believes that the cooperation and solidarity of these states are the shield which protects them from the evil of falling into the spheres of influence. Furthermore, he does not live in isolation from the civilized world, its intellectual trends and cultural achievements.

These circumstances have determined the objectives of national struggle at this stage and have imposed themselves on the method of building the new society--a society interested in the liberation of territory and elimination of foreign domination and foreign influence in all the political, social and cultural domains. It is a society that stays out of the spheres of influence and military pacts, a society that devotes all its efforts and energies to the development battle to put an end to backwardness and trigger off economic and social progress. It is a society with a modern state based on science and faith, a society in which the people enjoy equal freedom and get a fair share of their country's wealth. It is a society that maintains national unity based on the alliance of the people's forces, on equal opportunities and equality for all citizens. It is a society that seeks integration and unity with the other peoples of the Arab nation in a world which has no place for small entities.

This new edifice, the foundations of which were laid by the will and determination of our people after the May revolution, derives its components from our deep-rooted Arab cultural values and from the scientific application of the principles of the 23 July Revolution by keeping, developing and adding to everything that is positive and by eliminating and discarding the negative aspects.

The May revolution prepared the suitable atmosphere for educating the citizen to be free from fear and reassured about his day, his tomorrow, himself, his kin, his views and his possessions. As a result he shed the barb of negativity and in his mind and deeds participated in shouldering the responsibility of his homeland's fate. Therefore, we embarked on the immortal October battle, reassured and believing in victory. We achieved victory and the effects of this victory went beyond our immediate issue. The area's conditions changed and the effects of this change had repercussions on many international conditions. We were able to undertake the peace initiative in November last year. World public opinion responded to it, and its fruit began to appear in the great change which took place in the U.S. public opinion in favor of our issue.

The People's Assembly and the consecutive governments after the May revolution collaborated in their efforts to complete the democratic socialist structure until its features became clear to all. These features were recorded in the statement that I made at your honorable assembly on the occasion of the opening of the second ordinary session on 9 November 1977. I said then: According to our permanent constitution, socialist democracy is based on four basic principles. We committed ourselves to these principles in our struggle to establish a sound democratic structure. These four principles are:

1. Achievement of equilibrium between the individual and society;

2. Confirmation of religious values;

3. National unity and social peace;

4. Arab unity.

The clear goal has been to achieve a just balance and an organic link between the interests of the individual and society and the citizen's material requirements and his requirements for spiritual values. This is a clear course, which is different from Marxist socialism and capitalism. We have never disregarded personal freedoms or individual incentives as Marxist socialism has done because the economic and social liberation of man will only be completed by political democracy, which believes in individual freedom and which encourages incentives and creative initiatives.

The absence of the freedom of opinion and the supremacy of the law will enable the bureaucracy that is controlling the means of production to form a dictatorial class with unlimited powers. Moreover, we have not disregarded the hard forms of exploitation and the enormous disparity in the incomes of individuals created by capitalism.

The tax law is one of the most important laws, which reflects the principles of socialist democracy. That is why it was natural that the tax policy was widely discussed by various sectors of the people in recent years. Experts and specialists have also discussed it. It was also natural that the National Council for Production and Economic Affairs should study and discuss our taxation laws and issue numerous recommendations concerning them.

I have followed with great interest the discussions which took place in your honorable assembly on the achievement of a taxation justice bill. I have also made a careful study of the contents of this bill, which was approved by your honorable assembly and sent to me on 15 May 1978.

I have observed a number of matters in the bill, and that is why I thought of returning it to the honorable assembly for reconsideration. These observations can be summed up as follows:

1. The bill has been confined to partial amendments in the current income tax. These amendments, although important, have not touched upon the essence of the current taxation law. This law is about 40 years old and in all this time only partial amendments have been made to it, despite the radical development that has taken place in the social, economic and political fields. It was necessary, in order to achieve social justice, that the entire tax law be considered--also the direct and indirect taxes--and that this be done in light of the commercial, financial and monetary policies in general and the expenditure, prices and incomes policy in particular. The need for a comprehensive revision of the taxation law has been made greater by the economic progress in some fields and the increase in the wealth of a group of citizens resulting from the economic liberalization policy we have been following since 1974.

The fact is that the success of our democratic experiment and its consolidation depends on the social progress and economic stability we achieve. If a frightened person cannot express an opinion, then a hungry man cannot feel safe. If the proximity in incomes spreads love in hearts and achieves homogeneity among the members of the society, bolstering social peace and national unity, then the large difference in incomes leads exactly to the opposite because it helps to spread rancor and hatred in people's hearts and leads to dissension and division inside society.

If the principle of the democracy of rule guarantees the realization of a balancing between the individual and the state in the fields of political rights and public freedoms, then the principle of social insurance guarantees the realization of economic balance in the social and economic relations. Social insurance is based on cooperation and solidarity among the members of the society. It does not permit one to exploit others. It does not sacrifice the public interest for the sake of private interests either and does not fuse the entity of the individual inside the group. Therefore, social peace, which is the opposite of selfishness and class struggle, is society's course toward progress. Our permanent constitution has established the principle of social insurance and based many conclusions on it.

It is one of the foundations of our Arab civilization. The Holy Koran has referred to it in more than one place, including Almighty God's saying: All believers are brothers. The prophetic tradition compares society with the solid building which wholly collapses when part of it collapses, or by the human body, which suffers fever and the sleeplessness when a limb belonging to it is in pain. We find the same meaning in the Gospel, which says: My commandment is that you love each other as I loved you.

Social insurance does not do away with but encourages individual incentive. But to safeguard society and establish social peace, it prevents some individuals from attaining an economic or social position by which to threaten the interests of the masses. Moreover, it lays down regulations and rules which prevent the exploitation of wealth by a few people in society. It also prevents the attainment of privileges by individuals or a faction of society, enabling them to dominate the government and coerce and exploit other members of society. Therefore, every right is countered by a social duty, guaranteeing that private interests will not prevail above public interests. Social insurance, moreover, obliges the state to intervene to close the actual disparity resulting from the difference in their abilities and talents. It also commits the state to guarantee securing the basic needs of the people. This intervention aims at closing the gap in the material differences through the establishment of social rights and freedoms, and this is the essence of social justice.

Social insurance and the economic balance it strikes in society and the social rights and freedoms it establishes at the behest of the requirements of social justice are expressions of the fundamental bases of our Arab civilization. The Holy Koran forbids the hoarding of money and the failure to exploit it. Almighty God says: "And there are those who bury gold and silver and spend it not in the way of God; announce unto them a most greivous penalty." God has also forbidden the confinement of material prosperity and wealth to a few individuals in society. He says: "In order that it may not (merely) make a circuit around the wealthy among you." God has also forbidden that money be kept in the hands of a few people. He says: "Of their goods take alms, so that thou mightest purify and sanctify them." Able relatives must spend on their disabled relative who cannot earn his livelihood. If he has no relatives, then the treasury should assume this burden in accordance with the prophetic tradition: Money left by anyone will go to his heirs. If he leaves a burden, then we must assume it.

If the state is not well off materially, then it is the duty of the rich to spend on the poor. Almighty God says in this: "And in their wealth and possessions (was remembered) the right of the needy."

Praise be to God. We have made good progress toward the implementation of the principles of social justice through the laws which the People's Assembly has issued and the measures which the government has adopted to reduce the cost of living by subsidizing basic goods or by pricing consumer commodities. These measures also include the expansion of free public social services such as education and medical care, the extension of the social insurance umbrella to cover most citizens, limiting great wealth and large incomes through the laws which set a maximum limit to agricultural ownership or maximum salaries, raising the standard of living of persons with limited income by increasing the minimum wage, regulating the relationship between landlord and tenant and providing opportunities for productive work to all.

The taxation law occupies a prominent place in the field of social justice. The taxation policy under democratic socialism is the ideal way to close the gap in the differences in incomes and to enable the government to obtain the funds required to carry out its duty in the field of social development and implement its economic development plans. Taxation justice is the legitimate alternative under the constitutional legitimacy and the supremacy of the law for custodianship, confiscation and nationalization which prevailed under the revolutionary legitimacy.

I explained this in the statement I made at your esteemed assembly during its current ordinary session on 9 November 1977 when I said: I want, brothers and sisters, to be frank with you. The new taxation law must realize social justice, as Almighty God willed it. I do not object at all that each person should live in abundance of what God has given him. We do not begrudge anybody anything, nor do we envy anyone. When I say this, I want you to know that I will never resort to confiscation, detention, custodianship or any former measure. Therefore, I want you to take this into consideration when you prepare the taxation law, in order that the burdens be distributed according to the ability of each individual. The rich must assume the bigger burdens and the needy must assume the smaller burdens or no burdens at all. Moreover, we must realize a clear fact, which is one of the bases of the system we have chosen for ourselves. This fact is that the distribution of the burdens among the Egyptian family must be just and must correct any mistakes which might occur in the distribution of the wealth. Otherwise our country will become fuel for rancor, envy and hatred, which we do not accept.

Let me remind you of what I said in a message I addressed to the People's Assembly on 3 February 1975, and also communicated to the government at the same time, explaining the important changes which duty requires us to study and legislate. In this message I said: I believe that the taxation system calls for a new outlook so that tax may become the sound method for realizing our social aims of eliminating the class distinction and of providing the requirements of dignified life for the broadest masses of our people. Therefore, I believe that the taxation system must realize the following policies:

1. Tax must become a means for the just distribution of the just burdens among the citizens and not a mere means to obtain revenues for the state. The taxation policy should take into consdieration all the circumstances of the citizen and all his income must be taxed. No income must escape taxation and all ways of deception must be blocked in the face of the financier by distributing the factors of wealth and income on the members of one family. In this respect, let us take into consideration that any increase in the income of a person increases his ability to give and sacrifice and that the tax burden must conform with the level of income to establish the principle of taxation justice.

2. Tax must be a means of limiting the accumulation of wealth in a manner guaranteeing the just distribution of income and an instrument to eliminate class distinction. This requires contemplating imposing a tax on profits on capital which are realized through the increase of the value of a certain property without exerting any effort. This is unearned profit and is the result of changes in circumstances only. Therefore, the state must have a right to a part of this profit. Let the tax on it be a tax for social insurance in return for the social privileges which this wealth gives to its owner and for the state's guarantee of what is left for him from it and for guaranteeing his right to benefit from it.

3. Tax must be a means for limiting the signs of luxury and of indulgence in spending on luxury goods and it must be an incentive for productive investment. Spending in such cases can become a receptacle for taxation by increasing the indirect fees and taxes on luxury goods and recreation services and reducing or canceling them on essential goods so that their burden may not be placed on the shoulders of people who are unable to bear it.

You will thus see that the realization of social justice will bolster social peace and national unity. Therefore, it is important to reconsider our taxation system in its entirety, something which the taxation justice bill does not realize.

2. [no reference to one mentioned earlier] The taxation justice bill realizes certain aims of social justice from the aspect of distributing burdens by providing many exemptions and facilities to people of low income and by easing their sufferings. On the other hand, the bill subjects new activities to its provisions, but a considerable number of Egyptians with high incomes, who work in new projects which enjoy tax exemptions, are not subject to the tax provisions which govern the other Egyptians. What is stranger still is that they are Egyptians who live in Egypt, benefit from the state's services and consume goods that are subsidized by the state. This violates the principles of social justice which provide for narrowing the gap in incomes and distributing the burdens in accordance with the size of the income.

3. The bill stipulates some provisions which encourage the citizens to save and invest money in development projects, limit the noticeable upsurge in the consumption of commodities and the use of public services and prevent the channeling of money into peripheral activities. Figuring as the most prominent among these provisions are the reduction of the progressive scale of the general taxation on revenue and the determination of some tax exemptions for the projects included in the development plan. Thus, the bill considerably reconciles the requirements of social justice and individual incentives. However, we observe that some of these exemptions require reconsideration, which would lead either to their abrogation or reduction according to the nature and effect of the activity concerned on the national economy. We have also noticed that some of these exemptions include the workers employed in these projects, be they Egyptians or foreigners. These workers carry out their activities in Egypt, live in it and benefit from the services rendered by the state. They even benefit from the commodities subsidized by the state in its budget.

4. The bill lays down the rules governing tax liability, collection and the prevention of tax evasion. These regulations close loopholes for financiers. In this respect the bill codifies the provisions contained in Decree-Law Number 2 for 1977 on the protection of the homeland and the citizens. The people were called to a referendum on this decree-law in February 1977, in addition to the fact that this decree-law responds to the meaning which I had explained in the message I addressed to the People's Assembly on 3 February 1975 and which says, among other things:

...[MENA ellipsis] That a foolproof system be laid down from the levying of taxes and insuring the prevention of tax evasion, which would raise the state's tax levy potential. Our constitution has made out of the payment of tax and of public expenditure a national duty--and shirking this duty is tantamount to national treason, for which the law should prescribe the heaviest penalties.

Tax evasion distorts the calculation of anticipated revenue and affects the development plan, in addition to the fact that tax evasion creates revenues which, in their nature, tend to be spent on consumption and luxury. By so doing, such revenues create economic and social problems.

These remarks have induced me to exercise the jurisdictions vested in us by virtue of Article 113 of the permanent constitution. I invoke this article to veto the bill on taxation justice, which was endorsed by the assembly and which the assembly sent to us on 15 May 1978. I hereby return this bill to the esteemed assembly for reconsideration in light of the above-mentioned remarks.

I hope that the new study of this bill will project a complete image of our taxation system--an image which would reconcile the requirements of social justice and individual incentives, achieve justice in the distribution of burdens and also rectify the enormous discrepancy which might occur in the distribution of revenue. God grants success.

[Signed] President of the Republic, Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat

The assembly has decided to refer the message to a special committee chaired by Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi. This special committee includes the Planning and Budgetary Committee, the Office of the Economic Committee, the chairmen of the assembly permanent committees and those members wishing to study the message.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN

NC312022Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received at the presidential palace in 'Abidin a group of U.S. businessmen representing three U.S. telephone companies. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Economy Minister Hamid as-Sayid and Transport and Communications Minister Dr Na'im Abu Talib attended the meeting.

After the 1-hour meeting, Dr Na'im Abu Talib said that the discussions dealt with what the U.S. companies can offer in the field of communications and telephones to Egypt. The transport minister said that the U.S. companies consortium has offered to repair the telephones network in Egypt by implementing two plans. The first provides for a temporary repair of the telephone network and the other provides for the installation of new lines and exchanges.

The offer made by the American side will be debated in detail at meetings to be held by the transport and communications minister with the group of American businessmen within the context of repairing the telephone network in Egypt.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL MEET

NC310846Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] The president of Cyprus, Spiros Kiprianou, has described his meeting in New York yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil as very useful and constructive. He expressed optimism that bilateral relations between the two countries will be normalized in the not-too-distant future.

It should be recalled that both Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and President Kiprianou are currently attending the UN General Assembly session on disarmament. Egypt had withdrawn its recognition of Kiprianou as president of Cyprus in the wake of the circumstances which followed the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i.

KAMIL INVITES PRC FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT

NC311206Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] New York, 31 May--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stated after his meeting with PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua yesterday that they discussed the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries on the international level. He added that they reviewed international problems with concentration on the Middle East.

Kamil, who is at present in New York, said that they also discussed the possibilities of the two countries cooperating and coordinating actions at the Geneva disarmament conference to promote resolutions inthe interests of the developing states.

In conclusion, the Egyptian foreign minister said that he has invited the Chinese foreign minister to visit Egypt and left it to him to name a date for the visit. The Chinese foreign minister may make this visit on his way back home from New York.

AL-JAMASI RECEIVES CANADIAN PROFESSORS' DELEGATION

NC311335Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi this morning received the Canadian university professors' delegation, which is currently visiting the Middle East area to prepare an academic study on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the possibilities of achieving peace in the Middle East.

At the beginning of the meeting Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi spoke about the origin and development of the conflict. He then explained the dimensions of the situation in the present stage, and referred to the efforts which are being made to achieve a just and lasting peaceful settlement of the problem. He explained the aims of the peace initiative as a pioneer step on the road to just and stable peace.

During the 90-minute meeting, General al-Jamasi answered the questions and inquiries of the members of the delegation, which dealt with the aspects of the conflict and the future of peace in the Middle East.

The Canadian university professors' delegation [words indistinct] consists of 25 members, representing 800 colleges.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY TO REOPEN BORDER WITH LIBYA

NC010846Y QNA in Arabic 0722 GMT 1 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 1 June--In a dispatch from Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports today that Egypt has decided to reopen its borders with Libya and to permit the movement of persons and vehicles between the two countries.

The paper adds that the Egyptian authorities have prepared all the measures pertaining to the reopening of the borders. The Egyptian War Ministry has removed all the obstructions from the two sides of the road and has reopened the As-Sallum customs house. The Egyptian authorities are currently studying the early resumption of Egyptian flights to Libyan airports.

The paper adds that there has been no official announcement on this by the authorities of either country, who prefer that the borders between them be reopened in normal manner and without any propaganda which might temporarily delay the reopening.

ANTI-AS-SADAT 'FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF EGYPT' REPORTED

JN270943Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--Local Cairo reports say that a secret organization aimed at assassinating Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has been discovered. This is part of an attempt to justify the arrests which the Egyptian authorities began the day before yesterday. The reports add that this organization is operating under the name of the "Front for the Liberation of Egypt" and includes several former ministers, such as 'Abd al-Majid Farid, Dr Hikmat Abu Zayd, and Mustafa 'Abd an-Nasir, brother of late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

ROSE AL-YUSUF: AFRICAN CONFERENCE TO ISOLATE EGYPT

NC280907Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--In its weekly edition to be issued tomorrow, the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF says that the African states club, which calls itself progressive, which has been formed by Libya and Algeria with Moscow's encouragement, and which includes Ethiopia, Angola, Congo Brazzaville, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Malagasy and Benin, is now preparing for the convocation of a conference in the Malagasy capital of Antananarivo. The aim of the conference is to isolate and deal a blow to Egypt and to President as-Sadat's initiative by creating an African bloc at the next summit conference, which will be held in Khartoum in June. [as received]

The magazine also says that another aim of the conference is to serve Libya's interests by way of getting support for the FROLINAT, which is fighting against the Chad Government and also for the POLISARIO, which is serving Algerian interests in the western desert. The magazine says that the club has addressed invitations to the African communist parties to attend this suspicious conference, which is destroying African unity in the interest of a major power which is alien to the continent.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS MOSCOW, DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD RADIOS

NC261100Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 May--AL-AKHBAR chief editor Musa Sabri has assailed Moscow, Damascus and Baghdad radios, saying that they bark against Egypt day and night, believing that this noise will halt the march of Egypt.

Musa Sabri criticized the situation inside the Soviet Union, Syria and Iraq, saying there is no democracy in these countries. He added that the freedom of man is suppressed in these states.

In an article today reviewing the situation inside the Soviet Union, AL-AKHBAR's chief editor says that news agencies reported yesterday that a Soviet youth carrying a rifle broke into the Soviet airways company office in Moscow and threatened to take the company's female employee hostage if he were not permitted to leave Moscow by plane for abroad, but that his threat failed and he was arrested.

The chief editor adds: The significance of this report is clear. The Soviet authorities do not permit any Soviet citizen to go abroad unless he is a member of the party. Even then there are many restrictions and complicated measures before party members are permitted to go abroad, and then only on official duty.

Musa Sabri then says: We often hear about Soviet citizens who leave their country as members of official delegations or athletic or artistic groups and ask for political asylum in the first capital they reach. Even movement from one city to another requires a special permit.

Scoffing at Moscow Radio's continuous attack on Egypt and its lamentation of the fate of democracy in Egypt, the AL-AKHBAR chief editor says: This is what is happening to the freedom of man in the Soviet Union. Despite this, Moscow Radio describes democracy in Egypt as terror and coercion. This is despite the fact that every citizen in Egypt can move freely and go abroad unless banned from doing so by a court order.

In his article entitled "Significant News," Musa Sabri refers to news agency reports of the statements by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, in which he said that Syria does not want the Israeli forces to leave southern Lebanon, that it has not demanded their withdrawal and that it has refused to raise this question at the United Nations.

Commenting on Young's statements, Musa Sabri says: This is Syria's stand on the question of the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Despite this, the leaders of the Syrian Ba'th Party, who occupy the highest posts in the state, are impudent enough to speak day and night about a so-called Egyptian-Israeli-imperialist plot against the Arab nation and an Egyptian capitulation to the ambitions of Israel, continuing this obsolete, trivial theme, which no longer deceives the people.

Concerning the suppression of the freedom of man in Iraq, AL-AKHBAR's chief editor refers to news agency reports that the Iraqi Government summoned 17 of its ambassadors abroad for consultations and that armed cars took the ambassadors to prisons in unknown destinations as soon as they arrived in Baghdad. He says that this report has not been published in any newspaper and that not one family of any of the ambassadors has dared to inquire where the father of the family who disappeared in the darkness of the prisons is, or what the charge against him is.

Musa Sabri adds: This is how the freedom of man is respected in Iraq. Despite this, Baghdad Radio does not hesitate to launch a mean and vile attack against democracy in Egypt, which has not permitted and will not permit the detention of any Egyptian without a court order. This is also despite the fact that the press in Egypt is not subjected to any censorship, and its constitution guarantees the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

In conclusion, the AL-AKHBAR chief editor says: They want us to collapse, irrespective of whether it is Anwar as-Sadat or somebody else who is at the head of this regime. This is their aim because Egypt imposes its leadership and because Egypt has commanded world respect. How could Moscow tolerate what has happened in Egypt after it had liberated itself from Soviet imperialism? How could Damascus tolerate it after Israel had occupied more Syrian territory in the October war than it occupied in 1967? How could Baghdad tolerate this when its history-old crisis with Egypt since the Ottoman era has been a crisis of leadership--no more, no less?

ANTI-EGYPTIAN GROUP SUPPORTED BY LIBYA REPORTED

NC270800Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 May--The State Security Investigations Department has exposed the secrets of the organization calling itself "the front for the liberation of Egypt," which is financed by Libya.

The organization includes some members of the former centers of power in Egypt and some journalists and artists who live abroad. The aim of this organization is to circulate rumors about Egypt and to attack its regime through press articles and hostile radio stations, as well as to carry out acts of sabotage in Egypt.

The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM says in today's issue that the investigations have revealed that the hostile organization consists of two branches: political and military. The organization, which is based in Libya, includes a number of Egyptian personalities, such as 'Abd al-Majid Farid, a former minister in the presidential office and the mayor of Cairo during the rule of the centers of power; former Minister Dr Hikmat Abu Zayd and her lawyer husband; Mustafa 'Abd an-Nasir Husayn, brother of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir; actor 'Abd al-Ghani Qamar; and journalist Sa'id Habib, who used to work for the newspaper AL-AKHBAR.

The investigations conducted by the State Security Investigations Department proved that 'Abd al-Majid Farid, who currently works as adviser to the Algerian president, played a major role in this organization. He has contacted Mahmud Amin al-'Alim in Paris to write articles and publish false and misleading reports and statements about Egypt and its government. This work was part of the activity of the political branch of the organization, which seeks to defame the Egyptian regime through the press and radio stations.

The military branch of the organization established a military battalion trained by some members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to liberate Egypt by force. This would be done by sending soldiers and volunteers from this battalion to Egypt to sabotage important and vital installations and to carry out assassinations. The paper says that Interior Minister an-Nabawi Isma'il yesterday referred the investigation papers and documents to socialist prosecuter Anwar Habib, who decided to supervise the investigation and hear the testimony of the witnesses about the role and activity of the members of the organization.

NAHUM GOLDMANN GIVES INTERVIEW TO AL-AHRAM

NC2609377 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 May--Nahum Goldmann, the former president of the World Zionist Congress, has stressed that the Israeli leaders must eventually adapt themselves to the facts of the age and realize something that the late Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion would not admit: the time factor is not in Israel's interest. Goldmann expressed his belief that the Israelis will adapt to these facts either in the era of Begin, the present Israeli prime minister, or after him, because the only other alternative is war. In an interview published by AL-AHRAM today, Goldmann refers to the effect of President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative on the internal situation in Israel, saying that the new generations in Israel support peace and that wide sections of the army ask themselves: What is going to happen after all these wars? To prove his point, Goldmann refers to the peace movement inside Israel, which is opposed to Begin, and to the recent demonstrations in Israel. He points out that over 30,000 persons participated in one of these demonstrations to demand peace, whereas some did not expect more than 3,000 persons at most to take part in them.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, Goldmann refers to the effect of the peace initiative on Israel's position in the world, saying: The Middle East problem has worried the entire world, which desires a solution for it. The Americans want stability in the area and they want to maintain good relations with the Arabs because of their increasing need for energy. He stressed in this regard that Israel has lost a lot of ground in the United States and that all Americans are convinced that President as-Sadat wants peace and that Begin is the one who impedes its realization. In his interview Goldmann criticizes the leaders of Israel and the Zionist movement for not exerting sufficient efforts to hold a dialog with the Arabs and agree with them on a joint cooperation formula. He says: The choice for Israel now is either peace in 2 years or a new war. He expresses the belief that there will be elections soon in Israel to choose a new government.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

JN311520Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 May--His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the current Arab situation and relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed to his majesty by 'Abd al-Hamid Mahri, Algerian presidential envoy, who arrived in Amman this morning for this purpose.

JORDANIAN SOURCE DENIES HUSAYN SENT MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

JN280552Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 May 78 p 1 JN

[Text] A well-informed source has denied that His Majesty King Husayn recently sent a message to His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat. The source also denied that an envoy was sent to Cairo for this purpose.

The denial comes following a recent report in an Egyptian paper that his majesty sent a message to President as-Sadat through a Jordanian envoy. The source said that royal messages are usually sent through diplomatic channels.

AD-DUSTUR SAYS ISRAEL IMPLEMENTING WEST BANK AUTONOMY

JN270632Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 May 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem--The Zionist enemy authorities have begun taking practical steps to implement the Begin plan of granting autonomy to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR said in its issue published yesterday that the authorities of the military government are currently studying the means and methods of increasing the number of Arab employees in key posts in various West Bank departments. The paper says that the enemy authorities are about to appoint directors general in the West Bank departments to replace the Israeli officers.

AL-FAJR says that those nominated for the posts of directors general are Dr Muhammad Sa'id Badran, health; Kamal Yasin, agriculture; Dr Hatim Kamal, veterinary affairs; and 'Abd al-Qadir 'Arafah, social affairs. The paper adds that the authorities are still searching for a director general of education and another for justice and that the candidate for the justice post is Justice Nihad Jarallah, president of the Ramallah Court of Appeals.

AR-RA'Y COMMENTS ON SYRIAN-LEBANESE SUMMIT IN LATAKIA

JN010538Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today entitled "The Hopeful Meeting", the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: Yesterday, after a lapse of seven months full of events and ordeals, the Syrian and Lebanese presidents met to reassess the previous stage and to define the basis for their joint action during the next stage. There is no doubt that Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis will also review several matters that could contribute to restoring Lebanon's vigor through continued Syrian support.

Nevertheless, the Arab citizen today believes in the need for settling the Lebanese crisis as soon as possible in order to avoid continued Arab bloodshed inside and outside Lebanon.

Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis, in cooperation and understanding with the Palestine Liberation Organization, possess the necessary components to bring legitimate Lebanese authority to all Lebanese areas and to bridge the Lebanese gap with regard to the Zionist aggression.

AMMAN REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BUILD ARAB STRENGTH

JN281620Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Menahem Begin's cabinet is expected to adopt a certain stand toward the questions addressed to it by the U.S. administration concerning the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Since the practices of the occupation authorities from 1967 to the present, concerning the annexation and Judaization of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and other occupied Arab land, primarily the Arab city of Jerusalem, leave no doubt as to the nature of the replies which Begin's government will make to the U.S., waiting for a solution from a spontaneous Israeli stand is a futile waste of time and shows an obvious failure to realize the dimensions of the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

Jordan's moves have emerged from this understanding. They are designed to bridge the gaps in the Arab ranks and to pool and recruit Arab resources to serve the fateful Arab issue as a first and inevitable step toward endowing the Arab question with a pan-Arab dimension and insuring the guarantees required to safeguard the security of Arab citizens and the safety of the Arab land, which is threatened with occupation.

Since all previous efforts made in the Arab arena have failed to heal the rift and surmount the divisions and differences among the countries of the Arab family, this must not be a reason to despair or a justification to evade the commitments imposed by the pan-Arab responsibility to confront the Zionist aggression. This state of affairs must give a further incentive for making continued efforts at changing existing Arab relations in a way that will insure the development of at least an intrinsic Arab force capable of confronting the historical and cultural challenges to our national existence imposed by Israel.

Thus, continued Arab silence while waiting for the crystalization of an Israeli stand toward the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or rather, toward the Palestine question--the substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict--will not serve the cause nor affect a continuation of Israeli measures to annex and Judaize Arab territory. In the current situation in the Middle East, Jordan, as King Husayn has said, can only remain steadfast within its means and stand committed to the just Arab rights and the legitimate Palestinian rights. Jordan will never relent on its commitment to Arab pride and territory. Jordan, with its Arab brothers, will continue to seek to achieve an intrinsic Arab force in all political, economic, military and informational fields so that our nation will be able to face its enemies abroad and overcome its internal problems.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN WARNS AGAINST MILITARY ESCALATION

JN311819Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] A responsible source in the Information Department of the Palestinian revolution last night stated the following:

Since 1730 today, the Israeli and isolationist forces in southern Lebanon have been seriously escalating the military situation. These allied forces began heavy artillery shelling on peaceful civilian areas in the An-Nabatiyah area and nearby villages.

In the face of this serious escalation of fighting by the Israeli and isolationist forces to which innocent Lebanese and Palestinians are falling victim, the Palestinian revolution cannot continue to stand with its hands tied and not reply to the criminal blows dealt to its masses.

The Palestinian revolution has been exercising self-restraint up to this hour, 2130, to discover the political implications behind this sudden escalation of attacks on the positions of the joint forces, and the masses in particular. The revolution command has carried out urgent contacts with the UN forces command and the Lebanese Government to resolve matters.

While exercising self-restraint, the Palestinian revolution cannot wait long regarding the criminal and terrorist aggression of the Israeli and isolationist forces against the joint forces' bases and masses.

INA: JOINT FORCES RESPOND TO ZIONIST SHELLING

JN010904Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] The joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance last evening returned the artillery fire of the Zionist invasion forces of the (Ash-Shuqayf) citadel near An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. No casualties were reported as a result of the Zionist shelling.

INA: PHALANGISTS, FRANJIYAH SUPPORTERS CLASH

JN311300Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 May--Four people were killed and a number of others were wounded today in Shikka, 40 km north of Beirut, in an armed clash between armed men belonging to the Phalangist Party and supporters of former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

The clash between the rightist armed men took place inside the (Eternit) company in the city following an argument about increasing the influence of one party over the other in the company, which was an important stronghold for former President Franjiyah's supporters.

## Interior Minister on Clash

NC311756Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] A short while ago, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman was asked about the incident which took place in Shikka today. Salman said: A clash took place in Shikka in which four persons were killed and one was wounded.

The Lebanese security forces brought the situation under control with the help of the Arab deterrent forces. Political contacts were held to contain the incident and to forestall any complications.

## REJECTION FRONT, NATIONALIST MOVEMENT HOLD MEETING

JN311352Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 May--A joint meeting was held last night between the general secretariat of the front of Palestinian forces rejecting capitulationist solutions and the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The political situation in the Arab region in general and in southern Lebanon in particular were reviewed:

Sources of the rejection front stated that the secretaries general of the front submitted their views on the coming stage in light of the memo which the front recently submitted to the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) regarding the unification of the Palestinian stand. The members of the Central Political Council reviewed the Nationalist Movement's stand regarding developments in Lebanon and the repercussions which the capitulationist settlement in the region will have on these developments.

During the meeting it was agreed to form a working team to follow up the implementation of practical programs based on a unified understanding of the situation in the area.

## INA: UNIVERSITY CLOSES FOLLOWING CAMPUS CLASHES

JN302134Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 30 May--The Lebanese University branch in northern Lebanon was closed after internal security forces broke into the campus today and fired shots in the air to stop clashes between teachers and newly appointed administrators in the university.

The INA correspondent in the north says that this development comes only 2 months after the opening of this branch in the north. The teachers and students have complained about some employees who have been appointed to appease certain northern politicians.

The progressive student forces in the northern branch have declared a general strike in support of their demands that the administrative system be reconstructed on merit, and the police be prevented from violating the sanctity of the campus.

The teaching staff is meeting to discuss this issue and the Nationalist Movement in the north will also meet later to discuss it.

SYRIAN, LEBANESE PRESIDENTS MEET IN LATAKIA

Answer Newsmen's Questions

JN311807Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Latakia--His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis arrived at Latakia airport at 1130 today, thus beginning his visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

President Sarkis was received at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad; Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the army and armed forces; the comrade secretary and members of the Latakia Command branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and the governor of Latakia.

When His Excellency President Sarkis deplaned, the two presidents embraced. Afterwards, President Sarkis shook hands with those welcoming him and the Lebanese and Syrian Arab national anthems were played. After the two presidents reviewed the honor guard, they left in an official motorcade for the Presidental Palace in Latakia.

After a short talk, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis met with newsmen. Answering a question by the correspondent of Lebanese television, President Hafiz al-Asad said: It pleases me to welcome President Sarkis to Syria and to affirm at the same time that we deeply share with him and with our brethren in Lebanon all their problems. We lived with these problems together in the past and we are still living with these problems together. Moreover, as in the past, we will make efforts now and in the future in cooperation with our brother, President Sarkis, in order to overcome as many as possible of the problems which obstruct our march, particularly the security march in Lebanon. Our confidence in President Sarkis is clear to all. This confidence does not change from one day to another. Therefore, President Sarkis will receive full support and assistance from us in the future as he has in the past. This meeting will be useful, just as the previous meeting was. It will be useful because we will discuss these problems and we will discuss means and methods to overcome them. We will always be ready to solve these problems. I do not believe that there are problems which need some time to be solved. Whether the length of time is long or short depends on a number of factors, particularly our joint efforts and continuous cooperation. Again, I welcome President Sarkis and all the brother members of the delegation. I affirm that Lebanon's security is the security of Syria. Syria will remain with Lebanon as it always has. Everything makes me optimistic, but we need effort and we intend to make that effort.

Asked about the major issues which will be discussed at the summit meeting, President al-Asad said: We will discuss those problems which we feel need to be discussed and which we feel are in the interests of Lebanon, Syria or the area to discuss. Naturally, we will discuss the situation in southern Lebanon, security in Lebanon, questions of interest to Syria and questions of interest to the area. Naturally, the main problem is that of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, because it has come to complicate matters in Lebanon and in the area.

Asked whether the Syrian Army will support UNIFIL in southern Lebanon if the Israeli withdrawal is effected on 13 June, President al-Asad said: The Syrian Army in Lebanon is under the command of Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Lebanese Republic. When the Syrian Army first entered Lebanon, there was thought given to sending it to southern Lebanon. President Sarkis was the one who made the decision to keep the Syrian Army where it is now.

Asked about the armed Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, President al-Asad said: The Lebanese, Syrian and Arab houses are in order. Our major concern will remain that Israel should not benefit from any arrangement we make, because when Israel benefits, expansion and aggression benefit.

Asked by the correspondent of Lebanese television about the questions which will be discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad in order to overcome the whirlwind that Lebanon is experiencing, President Sarkis said: We will discuss all questions of interest to us on various levels. Personal contacts usually take place in an atmosphere of frankness and complete confidence, and this will help us to clarify matters and find the proper solutions at the right time. The incidents we are experiencing at present and their repercussions in Lebanon in particular and in the Arab homeland in general require more meetings at this and even higher levels. These meetings are necessary since relations between Syria and Lebanon are strong and the matters of concern to us are numerous and important. Some 7 months have lapsed since my last meeting with my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad. These 7 months were full of important developments. Therefore we decided to hold this meeting during which I hope we will be able to assess together the negative and positive aspects of these developments as far as Lebanon, Syria and the Arab homeland are concerned.

President Sarkis added: Lebanon has made, thank God, important strides in resuming its health course. The good efforts made by fraternal Syria and its noble president have helped this process. However, there are difficulties still facing us in Lebanon, particularly in certain areas. Together with his excellency, the brother president, we will make every endeavor to solve some of these difficulties. We have not yet reached in Lebanon the degree of reassurance we seek. I hope that during this meeting we will overcome some of these difficulties so that Lebanon may regain its complete health.

It pleases me on this occasion to carry to my brother president, Hafiz al-Asad, and through his noble person to the dear Syrian people a greeting of love, thanks and loyalty from the Lebanese people for what he has done for us.

An official delegation is accompanying President Sarkis. The delegation is made up of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss; Fu'ad Butrus, deputy prime minister and foreign and defense minister; Col Ahmad al-Hajj, director general of the Internal Security Forces; Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces; Faruq Abu al-Lama', director of public security; Carlos Khuri, director general of the Presidential Palace; and Khalid Haddad, director at the Presidential Palace.

Hold Closed Session

JN311950Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Latakia--Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis held a closed meeting at 1900 today at the Presidential Palace in Latakia. The SANA correspondent has learned that during the meeting they exchanged views on issues of joint interest to the two fraternal countries.

The two presidents also discussed the means necessary to strengthen security in fraternal Lebanon, based on the efforts being made to overcome the problems in the way of the march of security and peace in Lebanon so as to preserve its territorial integrity and protect its people.

The SANA correspondent adds that the problem of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is given priority in the talks between the two presidents.

Resume Talks

JN0109519Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Latakia--Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis resumed their meetings at 0930 today at the Presidential Palace in Latakia. The two presidents continued their review of the topics which were discussed yesterday.

The SANA correspondent has learned that during the expanded meeting held last night by the two presidents, they discussed all matters which concern the two fraternal countries and the area, particularly the consolidation of the relations of brotherhood and understanding which exist between them. The correspondent added that an atmosphere of understanding regarding all matters discussed prevailed at the meeting. They also achieved positive and encouraging results which will contribute to the strengthening of the fraternal relations between the two countries.

The two presidents also reviewed ways and means to consolidate the march of security and peace in Lebanon, particularly ways to insure Israeli withdrawal and to eliminate the occupation of southern Lebanon.

Members of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations will later join the two presidents.

AL-BA'TH COMMENTS ON AL-ASAD-SARKIS MEETING

JN0107000Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Importance of the Meeting of the Two Presidents, Al-Asad and Sarkis," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: "With all our hearts we share the problems of President Sarkis and our brethren in Lebanon. We have shared these problems in the past and we are still facing these problems together." With this sincere and national speech, Leader al-Asad welcomed his distinguished guest, President Sarkis. Al-Asad's love for Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and his concern for their unity have been confirmed by the decisions he adopted in difficult circumstances to end the fighting and eliminate the great conspiracy in Lebanon, which was earmarked to be the first of its victims. Our masses in Lebanon no doubt are well aware of these difficult decisions adopted by Al-Asad to save Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance, nay the entire Arab nation. When he took these decisions, leader Al-Asad did so because he is convinced of the importance of the national principles and because he totally believes that the security of the Arab homeland is one and indivisible. Under Al-Asad, Syria will continue, as it has done in the past, to exert every effort effort for coordination and complete cooperation with the legitimate Lebanese authorities to entrench security, restore stability and bring confidence to the Lebanese citizens. Syria will continue to cooperate with President Sarkis to overcome as many of the problems which are hindering the Lebanese security march as possible.

Yesterday, leader Al-Asad reaffirmed that Lebanon's security is that of Syria. Syria will remain, as always, with Lebanon. All indications give rise to optimism and there is also a need for efforts to be exerted; our determination to exert every effort is present.

The paper concludes its editorial and says: In any case, the Al-Asad-Sarkis meeting will have its effects on entrenching the security process in Lebanon and on strengthening the existing brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

AL-BA'TH ATTACKS AS-SADAT'S REFERENDUM

LD010238Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 May 78 p 3 LD

[George'Ayn Malak article: "Call For Confronting the Imperialist Onslaught"]

[Text] Now that President As-Sadat has finished his hurriedly conducted referendum, it has become clear to those watching the situation in Egypt the role being prepared for Egypt in the coming stage.

This referendum has detached Egypt from the history of the nationalist July Revolution. Thereby, As-Sadat has to a certain extent achieved his second major objective. Arab Egypt that played a pan-Arab role came to an end with As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. And Egypt, as the seat of the national cause and of the national democratic development, after the referendum turned into a repressive regime hostile to the national liberation movement and to progressive social development. This is because, according to the outcome of As-Sadat's referendum, no Egyptian nationalist struggler from now on can play even the smallest role in the state. Thereby As-Sadat wanted to move to a new stage and has now achieved this, formally at least.

Now that it has become clear that As-Sadat's desires are in actual fact the U.S. desires, what can As-Sadat's cronies, who once had a national history, say inasmuch as they have destroyed themselves by participating in As-Sadat's game since 15 May 1971?

What is happening in Egypt is not in itself as important as what its outcome and indications imply and what is being daily proved. If anything, Egyptian events first and foremost indicate the mistake that some nationalist elements commit when they fall prey to imaginations that are not supported by the course of events. What happened in Egypt today should give an indication as to what may happen in the area in the coming stage should the U.S. game be able to maintain its momentum, not only with its own intrinsic power but also with the support of local elements in the area which are daily trying to justify their adherence to the U.S. objectives on the grounds that such objectives achieve common interests.

The continued state of "stagnation" in the general situation in the area will further complicate matters to the point that it will become difficult to find a suitable and effective formula to confront the revisionist-reactionary-imperialist onslaught in the area. Also, trusting the duty of steadfastness and confrontation to one party--such as Syria, for example--will not benefit the Arab struggle as would marshalling all the Arab nationalist and patriotic forces with all their capabilities toward shouldering such duty.

Arab Syria, as it is proudly doing everything necessary for the dictates of the higher Arab interest and is shouldering commitments and engaged in activities in this regard, calls on all the Arabs today--the nationalist ones, of course--to shoulder their duty, not only of opposing As-Sadat's deviation but also of struggling against the root of the problem; namely, against all the imperialist schemes and interests of all forms and types, economic or political, particularly since the recent incidents in Zaire have proved--as similar other incidents proved--that imperialism is prepared to forsake or forget their secondary differences for the sake of their common interests. There is nothing to prompt the belief that the character and forms of conflict in our area are much different from those of the conflict in Zaire or elsewhere.

BA'TH PARTY TELLS OF TROUBLES IN NABULUS JAIL

Death of Lawyer

JN301705Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] The regional command of the unified Palestinian organization in the Ba'th Party has announced the death of comrade lawyer Farid Ghannam who was martyred in jail in occupied Nabulus on 28 May at the hands of the Zionist enemy authorities.

Hunger Strike

JN301706Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Arab detainees in Nabulus jail have staged a hunger strike in protest against the occupation authorities' position regarding lawyer Ghannam. These authorities ignored repeated pleas to release Ghannam in view of the deterioration of his health. They also failed to provide him with any medical treatment.

RADIO TRANSMITTER 'VOICE OF THE PEOPLE' INAUGURATED

JN010805Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 1 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad announced over the "Voice of the People" radio this morning the commencement of operation by the new transmitter as of today, 1 June 1978. In his announcement, the minister defined the objectives of the new radio transmitter. He said that it has been installed at the instruction of President Leader Hafiz al-Asad so that Damascus Radio would be commensurate with the comprehensive development in Syria, would reflect its reality, meet its aspirations and would contribute to implementing development plans.

The minister asserted that, based on this principle and in order to achieve these objectives, the new radio transmitter will render its services to its listeners, will participate in the national anti-illiteracy campaign and will follow up the battles of our citizens. The minister expressed his hope that the new radio transmitter would participate in shouldering the responsibility of development in Syria in a manner that would achieve an even-handed progress for our society and intensify our ability to stand fast and achieve our nation's objective in building the one state for the one Arab nation.

On behalf of the employees of the general program, Damascus Radio wishes the new Voice of the People transmitter success in serving its listeners and achieving its objectives so that it will proceed, along with Damascus Radio, in the service of information and its national and pan-Arab objectives.

## ALGERIA

### AL-QADHDHAFI HOLDS TALKS WITH BOUMEDIENE IN ALGIERS

LD312048Y Tripoli JANA in English 1905 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, 31 May, JANA--Talks between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Democratic Republic of Algeria opened here at 4:30 this afternoon at the residence of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan delegation was headed by Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General Peoples Congress, and the Algerian delegation was headed by President Houari Boumediene, chairman of the Algerian Revolutionary Council and government.

From the Libyan side the talks were also attended by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress; Mr. Jaddallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of industry; Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; and Mr Musa Abu Furay Wah, [word indistinct] secretary.

From the Algerian side the talks were attended by Col. Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Revolutionary Council and executive official of the FLNA; Col Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of interior; Col Ahmed Draia, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of transport; Mr. Mohamed Tayebi Larbi, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of agriculture; and Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, minister advisor of the presidency.

### FLN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW TALKS

LD311011Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 May 78 p 1 LD

[APS report: "National Liberation Front Representatives in the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Algiers--A National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation headed by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, chairman of the Orientation and Information Committee, starts a visit to the Soviet Union today at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

During its visit the FLN delegation will take part in the celebrations organized to mark African liberation day.

The Algerian delegation will exchange views with members of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee with a view to finishing the talks started in Algiers during a visit by a Soviet delegation.

### YUGOSLAV PARTY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

LD010245Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] The delegation of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] left Algeria this afternoon at the end of a 3-day visit to our country at the invitation of the FLN. A joint communique was issued which said: An LCY delegation led by Aleksandar Grlickov, secretary in the Executive Committee of the Presidium of the LCY Central Committee, visited Algeria at the invitation of the FLN. The Algerian side was led by Slimane Hoffmann, head of the International Relations Committee of the FLN

In the talks the two sides reviewed the international situation and the development of the struggle of progressive and democratic forces in the world. They also analyzed the state of the nonalined movement and the scope for its consolidation. Special attention was paid to the situation in Africa and the Mediterranean and to the need to consolidate international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect.

The two sides recorded that the determination of peoples to maintain their independence has sharply emerged and pointed to the concentrated pressures of a political, economic and military nature exercised by imperialist and neocolonialist forces on African countries in particular and the nonalined in general. Concerning the Mediterranean, the two sides confirmed the need to make [words indistinct] a region of true peace dominated by security and mutual cooperation among countries along its shores. Therefore, progressive forces on the Mediterranean must expand the exchanges among them.

The two sides recorded with deep satisfaction their identity of views on all matters discussed and agreed to consolidate and develop relations between the two parties.

ASH-SHA'B ATTACKS SAUDI POLICY IN AFRICA

LD311448Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Don't Approach the Lion's Den"]

[Text] The president's speech at the conference of war veterans has revealed the character of the existing reactionary-imperialist alliance with the aim of striking at progressive regimes and paralyzing liberation movements in the Arab world and Africa.

In fact, this alliance is not new. It began gaining strength in the late 1960's when it helped to bring about political changes in the Arab area that led to reorganizing the situation in such a way as to facilitate the return of imperialist-colonialist-Zionist domination. As a result, Cairo has become the central link in this reactionary axis which, horizontally, extends from Rabat to Riyadh and Teheran and, vertically, from Paris to Zaire and South Africa via Rabat, Nouakchott, Dakar and Libreville.

Saudi Arabia, whose monarch in 2 days will be the guest of the French president, is playing an active and basic role in this aggressive axis thanks to the oil revenues that exceed its needs.

As far as we are directly concerned, we find it [Saudi Arabia] to be a major party to the current conflict in our area. It has accepted Iranian occupation of the three Arab islands in the Strait of Hormuz. Along our borders, it is supporting the Moroccan and Mauritanian armies in accordance with a colonialist plan that aims at dragging the Algerian revolution into an open war whose outcome would paralzye its genuine revolutionary experiment in development and liberation and subjugate its political regime so that it would no longer remain the "discordant" voice in the imperialist+reactionary choir.

Events have proved that Saudi Arabia's stands in the Arab battles of destiny, foremost of which is the battle of Palestine, were not sincere. It has not adopted a firm stand against the present conspiracy to liquidate the Palestine problem. Its stands have been deceitful and misleading and designed to avoid confrontation with forceful popular uprising such as, for example, the spontaneous wave of protests that swept Saudi Arabia itself after the 1967 war condemning the imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

How much we wish that this country would adhere to the teachings of Islam whose slogans it raises everywhere and on every occasion and would devote the funds that exceed its needs to helping the millions of barefoot and hungry Muslims in the world, rather than encouraging every movement which is hostile to progress and liberation and which serves colonialism and imperialism. Examples of such actions are many:

Saudi reaction is still paying vast sums of money to the Egyptian regime, despite the fact that this regime has departed from Arab unanimity and reconciled with our common enemy at the expense of the holy Palestinian cause and the sacrifices of martyrs who fell during the 30 years of bitter Arab struggle.

This same state is underwriting the financing of the Moroccan-Mauritanian side in the Western Sahara war by paying the cost of arms and equipment imported by these countries in order to annihilate a Muslim Arab people and to distract this people's ally in the area from continuing with its greater struggle of winning the battle of development.

This state has often tried and is still trying to bring down the democratic regime in the PDRY because of fear of its revolutionary influence. In so doing, it has gone to the extent of aborting every attempt to unify the two parts of Yemen. This has given rise to suspicions that it was behind the assassination of Chairman al-Hamadi, who was guiding his regime toward the declaration of unity with the PDRY.

And finally, we find that this state has contributed to the suppression of the popular uprising in Zaire, whether by prompting Cairo and Rabat to intervene militarily or by participating with Iran in financing what is known as "Mobutu's economic plan."

All these actions confirm that the slogan of Islamic solidarity which Riyadh raises is false, unless this solidarity means surrendering and entrusting our fate to the capitalist West. We have a right to ask: Which religion encourages internecine fighting and which religion recommends crime and aggression?

It is very unfortunate that this state should interfere in our area, not as a neutral party trying to reconcile the disputing parties and in order to extinguish the fire and prevent Islamic ranks from collapsing, but as a biased party that has chosen its position in the battle and seems to have been waiting for an opportunity to settle an old account with the Algerian people. Whoever adopts such an attitude must bear its consequences. History is our witness that we were not the ones who started this because of our desire to preserve our good brotherly relations.

You, people of Mecca, don't approach the lion's den because the Algerian revolution is as hot as a burning coal.

ASH-SHA'B: ARAB FINANCING LIKELY FOR AFRICAN ALLIANCE

LD311554Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpt] Reports from Paris say that it is not unlikely that a rich Arab state, which has been following up and participating in the current events on the African Continent, will pay part of the expenses of the establishment of the French military alliance with some of the African countries. News agencies have linked this report with reports of intensive contacts currently taking place in Paris between the French Government and some African heads of state, on the one hand, and officials of the Arab country concerned who are currently in the French capital, on the other.

## SUDAN

NUMAYRI TO LEAVE FOR ARAB TOUR 1 JUNE

LD311534Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri, who is chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, leaves Khartoum tomorrow morning at the start of his second tour in an effort to restore Arab solidarity. His entourage will include Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister.

The tour will include the PDRY, the YAR, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

INA REPORTS NUMAYRI-COMMUNIST RECONCILIATION

JN311050Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 May--News agency dispatches from Khartoum have reported that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri is currently conducting a dialog with the Sudanese Communist Party to achieve a reconciliation. This follows an estrangement which started in July 1971, when the Communist Party Secretary General 'Abd al-Khaliq Mahjub was executed.

The reports indicate that the dialog is proceeding well. It should be recalled that President Numayri recently released 29 detainees of the Communist Party, including 10 members of the party's Central Committee.

## WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCES MOROCCAN REPRESSIONS

LD281418Y Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Text] APS, SDAR--In a communique published on Saturday, the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] committee of information strongly denounces the repressions of the Moroccan forces against the Saharan population confined behind the minefield and barbed wire at El Aaiun.

"On 20 May, the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the armed struggle for national independence in the Western Sahara, tracts were distributed and slogans written on the walls at El Aaiun and among the forces of aggression and occupation.

"Our peoples, unable to forget this memorable day in their history, want to celebrate it in their own way, and it was just like the celebration on 20 May 1973 against the Spanish occupation.

"A savage repression has come down on many innocent people. The Moroccan forces have started to arrest people indiscriminately, to pillage houses and to challenge numerous people. Several women have been arrested as well as dozens of men. The same thing happened at Dakhla, at Laguera and even at Nouadhibou, where tracts clearly called for the departure of Moroccan annexationist forces stationed at Nouadhibou and Zouirat, who conducted a vast manhunt against the Saharans, even in Mauritania's interior. They are pursuing the authors of the tracts and also all the so-called (?accomplices) of the patriots who recently joined the front."

AFP: SAHARAN GUERRILLAS KILL 25 MOROCCAN TROOPS

NC280956Y Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Algiers, May 28 (AFP)--Saharan guerrillas killed 25 Moroccan troops and wounded another 20 in an attack on Tantan, southern Morocco, on May 17, the Defence Ministry of the self-proclaimed Saharan Republic announced today.

A communique, published here, said the Saharans had destroyed large quantities of military equipment.

POLISARIO FRONT REPORTS BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD301530Y Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Summary] The POLISARIO Front has launched attacks on the occupier in (Tifariti), Amgala, Daoura and Chems. On 23 May the front launched heavy attacks on the Rabat annexationist forces in these areas, according to a communique released by the Saharan Ministry of Defense.

The communique says that at Amgala and (Tifariti) enemy military positions were subjected to intensive heavy arms fire, which knocked out two pieces of heavy artillery. Some 10 Moroccan soldiers were killed or wounded. The occupying forces at Daoura suffered heavy losses, with 22 dead. The military installations were rendered useless and seven trucks and a tank were destroyed.

Also on 23 May the POLISARIO forces attacked enemy troops south of Sken, where they destroyed a second tank, killing its occupants. On 17 May in the same area a company of enemy soldiers was rendered ineffective and prisoners were taken.

SAHARANS CLAIM BATTLE SUCCESSES AGAINST MOROCCANS

LD302314Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text] A statement issued today by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic says that the Saharan People's Army once again attacked the Moroccan invasion army in the region of Sken within the framework of its continuous operations on the northern front. Six Moroccan soldiers were killed and a similar number wounded. The statement adds that a Moroccan military convoy drove into a minefield near Semara and Amgala. Two trucks were destroyed and eight of their occupants killed.

PRESS REPORTS ON REACTION TO AS-SADAT REMARKS CONFLICT

31 May DAVAR

TA311222Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 May 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Authoritative government circles last night denied the report broacast on television that there is "serious consideration" being given in the cabinet to withdrawing the peace plan, in view of the intransigence in recent statements by As-Sadat.

Jerusalem flatly rejects As-Sadat's statement and claims it contains nothing to contribute toward progress in the peace negotiations. It is clear, however, that any withdrawal of Israel's peace plan will cause the impasse in the negotiations to be blamed on Israel.

31 May HAZOFE

Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 31 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem, who yesterday reacted to As-Sadat's speech, in which he specified the month of October as the end-date for the negotiations, said that if Egypt continues using threats, Israel would withdraw its peace plan.

The circles maintained that the disengagement agreement signed in 1975 contains no hint that it would expire in 1978. On the contrary, it says that as long as it is not replaced by another agreement, it remains in force and valid. Hence, the setting of dates and threatening with actions contradicts the disengagement agreement.

31 May 'AL HAMISHMAR

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] "As long as the president of Egypt does not come up with counterproposals to the Israeli peace plan, this plan should be maintained and explained, as it is a far-reaching plan that has not yet been responded to." This is what our correspondent was told last night by an authorized source, in reaction to President as-Sadat's statement yesterday at a press conference in Egypt.

The source was reacting to a report broacast on television last night, according to which "very senior political circles" believe that Israel should change its peace plan, and make its stand more rigid in the wake of As-Sadat's statement.

The source told our correspondent that As-Sadat had indeed reiterated his well-known position, but this cannot be grounds for a change in Israel's peace plan. This is a very good plan, the source said, and one does not begin changing a plan so long as the other party has not responded to it and submitted an alternative plan. This is not customary, the source noted, adding that much patience is needed and that he believes Egypt will eventually respond and the dialog will resume.

Another source noted signs of relative moderation in As-Sadat's statement: His hints that Egypt is not likely to demand the removal of UN forces from the buffer zone once the agreement expires in October (hints that are linked to As-Sadat's statement the day before yesterday about his intention to continue the policy according to which the October 1973 war was the last war); his proposal to postpone the Arab summit meeting by 2 months; his willingness to propose "new things"--although after Israel does so.

In the view of that source, As-Sadat wished to "transmit" that he is continuing his peace initiative, that he does not want to break it off, but that he is subjected to pressures and expects that Israel will make things easier for him by meeting him halfway--apparently on the subjects of Judaea and Samaria and the Palestinians.

The cabinet will touch on President as-Sadat's statement in its session next Sunday. Until then no official reaction to the Egyptian president's statement can be expected.

ANOTHER AL-JAMASI MESSAGE TO WEIZMAN REPORTED

TA311948Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 May 78 TA

[Text] In a message recently sent by General al-Jamasi to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman the subjects on which the positions of the parties should be reconciled were dealt with in a practical manner, so that the direct negotiations for peace can be resumed.

Our military correspondent 'Amiran Nir has learned that Al-Jamasi's message is much more substantive than the general message exchanged previously. Nevertheless, a change in positions has still not taken place, and both parties realize that before any kind of progress is made, there is no point in renewing the meetings in Cairo.

ALLON COMMENTS ON DEADLOCK IN NEGOTIATIONS

TA311904Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 31 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In the groves of Kibbutz Ginnosar the traditional Jewish-Arab meeting took place this afternoon. At the meeting representatives of the Jewish and Arab communities from the Galilee, the Triangle and the Golan Heights attended, as well as a representative of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon. Former Foreign Minister MK Yigal Allon expressed his concern over the deadlock prevailing in the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar brings us some of MK Allon's remarks: [begin recording]

[Allon] In order for the negotiations to move out of their deadlock, the governments of Egypt and Israel must not regard their existing fomulations as the last word. Both of them must move from their positions for the sake of bringing about that compromise. Egypt must move away from its adherence to its prior conditions; not only with regard to peace, but even with regard to the renewal of the negotiations. It must understand that, because of the policy of not an inch it is taking with regard to the three borders, the way to provide Israel with secure borders is blocked. International guarantees cannot serve as a substitute for defensible borders accompanied by mutual security arrangements between the direct partners in peace. The nations of the Middle East are mature enough for their mutual security not to be dependent on foreign patronage, even if it is friendly.

Israel must accept the requirement to give up the idea of returning totally to the historic, deep link of the nation of Israel with Eretz Yisra'el, taking into consideration the existence of the Palestinian Arab nation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and must permit it to return and reconnect, even if it is on a federal basis, under one sovereignty, with the larger part of that same nation which lives in the East Bank also known by the name of Jordan, which is, by the way, no less ancient and historic a name than Palestine. In other words, it must give up the formulation that, and I quote, in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza no rule or sovereignty will be founded which is not Israeli. End of quote. It must be content with borders with a strategic value, which I prefer to call defensible borders, and not to bring withing the sphere of Israeli law territories populated by Arabs. The United States must be content with the great status of mediator and refrain from pressures. [end recording]

RABIN CITES DANGER OF RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES

TA311855Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 31 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Even since the peace impetus, or, as the Egyptian president used to call it, the momentum, halted, we have increasingly been hearing voices on the possibility of a resumption of hostilities. In the absence of a political process or a chance of such a process, the danger of war has increased. The political reality in the Middle East can cause a decision in favor of a military action without any connection with the relations of the military forces. This is the evaluation of Mk Yizhaq Rabin with regard to the possiblity of a resumption of the war in our area, as was said in a seminar in the Shilo'ah Institute. Here are the main points from MK Rabin's remarks in a report by Sara Avivi:

President Carter has adopted a policy completely different from that of his predecessors with regard to the Middle East. Carter's policy, according to Mk Yizhaq Rabin, is based on the Brookings report, the main point of which is a comprehensive solution, the achievement of peace between Israel and all the countries surrounding it. [being recording]

[Rabin] The Americans want to bring about the realization of the Brookings plan. With an interim stage, there will be self-rule within 5 years, but to bring about a linkage of the Palestinian entity in Judaea and Samaria to Jordan, taking into consideration the security needs--as they see them--not the settlement needs, the security ones--of Israel. [end recording]

[Avivi] Mk Yizhaq Rabin believes that there is no danger that the United States will expose Israel to a direct Soviet treat; this on condition that Israel restrain from the start from moves to which even the United States will not be able to prevent the reaction of the superpower which competes with it, such as a conquest of an Arab capital. The United States is even demanding territorial concessions from Israel such as those it made in the latest agreement with Panama. [begin recording]

[Rabin] Were Israel to say today, there is a date when we will get out of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip, then they would argue with us over the time. The argument today is focused on the U.S. aim of bringing about an agreement in principle similar to their agreement over the Panama Canal. The Americans are, in fact, saying, look at us, what we did in Panama, follow in our footsteps, in our approach in principle. Afterward the timing is an issue open to bargaining. [end recording]

DAYAN 'BECOMING RESTLESS WITH LACK OF PROGRESS'

TA010630Y Jerusalem POST in English 1 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is proposing that Israel place greater emphasis on the role of Jordan in its autonomy plan for the West Bank. Sources close to Dayan say he does not seek any amendment of the 26-point autonomy plan drawn up by Premier Begin last December, but rather a "concretization and elaboration" of certain of its clauses.

Dayan is to discuss his views with Premier Menahem Begin today, as a prelude to broader cabinet discussions on the two questions which the U.S. has posed to Israel. These concern the sovereignty over the West Bank, and the political self-expression of its inhabitants, after the five-year autonomy period ends.

It is not yet clear precisely what Dayan has in mind; or how far Begin will be prepared to go along with him. For ideological reasons Begin has always been wary of West Bank blueprints which call for extensive Jordanian involvement in running the area (hence his opposition to the "functional settlement" idea put forward by some Labour Party leaders).

Nevertheless the Begin autonomy plan itself does contain several clauses which call for cooperation with Jordan.

Dayan apparently feels that a more pronounced Jordanian involvement would prevent the area's falling under PLO influence during the autonomy period. He believes that a shift in this direction in Israel's policy-thinking at this time would be welcomed in Washington (and in Cairo) and might help to ease the negotiating deadlock.

Sources close to Dayan say he is confident of winning the premier's support for his ideas, and subsequently that of the large majority of cabinet ministers. They recall that he won Begin over to support of the U.S.-Israel "working paper" of last October which he laboriously drafted with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, even though the premier was initially doubtful about the "Palestinian clause" of that paper. (It called for Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Palestinian representatives to discuss issues pertaining to the West Bank and Gaza.)

Other knowledgeable political sources claim that Dayan is becoming restless with the lack of progress in the diplomatic process and sometimes feels that Begin's ideological rigidity--especially with regard to formulae--is partly to blame for it. Thus Dayan is said to have felt in March and April that Israel could have negotiated an acceptable "declaration of principles" and thereby averted the grave setback in relations with the U.S.

A similar restlessness is attributed by political pundits to Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who recently received a message from his Egyptian opposite number General al-Jamasi.

At the same time there are one or two cabinet ministers who appear to be chaffing at what they consider the unwarranted moderation of Israel's position. In light of President as-Sadat's recent hardline statements these ministers are reportedly advocating a reconsideration by Israel of its concession to Egypt of almost all of Sinai.

DAYAN RECOVERING FROM COLD; BEGIN CONDITION IMPROVING

TA311344Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 May 78 p 1, TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has been absent from his office for 2 days. Replying to a question last night, the ministry spokesman explained that Dayan has been at home the last 2 days to recuperate from a cold he contracted last week and which he had been unable to properly take care of due to his schedule.

Our correspondent notes that the prime minister continues to rest at his home and that today again he will not be going to his office. His associates reported last night that his temperature has returned to normal and that his condition is improving. Toward the end of the week a meeting may take place between the prime minister and the foreign minister in anticipation of the cabinet political debate at the beginning of next week.

GUSH EMUNIM LEADER PUSHES FOR MORE LAND

TA290740Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Gush Emunim yesterday urged the government to find new ways of taking possession of Arab-owned land in Judaea and Samaria, to ease Jewish settlement there.

The movement's political secretary, Gershon Shafat, told the Jerusalem POST that unless the government finds "another technique" of obtaining land, Arab residents of other West Bank localities will follow the example set by the residents of Dayr Nizam and An-Nabi Salih, who won a high court temporary injunction against the state last week.

Shafat tacitly urged expropriation of land by stating that settlement is important for security--and therefore the lands are needed for security--or by amending the law, making it permissible to seize land for settlement.

A senior government source who was asked to comment told the POST, "pressures didn't worry us in the past and will not in the future." But he would not disclose what the government was thinking of doing now.

A senior government official blamed the press for having focused attention on the developments at An-Nabi Salih. The reports appear to have alerted a Quaker organization which helped the local residents prepare the application to the high court of justice for an order nisi--which they won.

"One fool throws a stone into a well and 10 wise men can't get it out," the official said bitterly.

Shafat also urged measures to induce West Bank Arabs to emigrate. Some 40,000 Arabs who cross the green line from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to work in Israel should be replaced by Jews, which would induce the Arabs to find work abroad, he said. Large-scale Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria should change the character of the area, thereby inducing other Arabs to leave.

Finally, the U.S. and the oil-rich Arab states should be convinced that emigration of hundreds of thousands of Arabs is the only solution to the Middle East dispute, and they ought to help finance the move, Shafat said.

The Arab emigration should be the result of "mutual understanding and continuous economic activity...with no attempts at coercion," he said. His ideas are "morally justified" when one takes into account that 700,000 Jews were forced to leave all their belongings in the Arab countries "from which they fled...and came to Israel," Shafat added.

Shafat also urged that all the budgetary allocations for housing--new immigrants, young couples and urban renewal--should be redirected to Judaea and Samaria. An infrastructure of roads, electricity and water should be prepared for the development of big towns, of which Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman's proposed six would be only the beginning, he said.

"With a big push, we would get 100,000 Jews there in three to five years," he added.

POST ON GREEN PATROLS' 'STRONG-ARM TACTICS' IN NEGEV

TA3109000Y Jerusalem POST in English 31 May 78 p 14 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The strong-arm tactics currently employed by the Green Patrols against the Negev bedouin offer a classic example of how not to carry out a necessary policy in a society built on law and made up of a variety of ethnic strains.

There is no gainsaying that many of the bedouin whose ramshackle homes are being bulldozed, and whose tents are being forcibly torn down, are trespassing on state lands. Nor can it be denied that the runaway growth in the size of the bedouin flocks of sheep--and more especially of the ruinous black goats--is a very real threat to the precarious natural balance of the Negev desert. It is also a scourge on farming land further up north where they are pushing in search of pasture.

Yet these facts cannot serve to condone resort to the kind of brutality attested to by several Negev reporters who have been closely following the recent activities of the Green Patrols.

One of the oldest, and Biblically recorded, conflicts in the arid and semi-arid Middle East, is that between the nomadic and the settled populations. In this sense, Israel's bedouin continue to pose a serious challenge to the orderly, which means sedentary, modes of living. It is essential that they be integrated into the modern agricultural and industrial society that Israel has become.

All the surrounding Arab countries face similar problems, and some of them have been much less self-conscious, let alone self-abnegating, than Israel in forcibly settling their bedouin populations.

There is much to be said in favour of the present and the previous governments' offers for resolving the bedouin land claims. The Arab Affairs Adviser's Office, too, has shown commendable concern about maintaining a healthy balance between the bedouin flocks and the Negev's long-term capacity to support them.

However, these eminently reasonable policy approaches have failed to be reflected in the almost vigilante-type actions of the Green Patrols. The patrols were set up in the Ministry of Agriculture for the purpose of preventing the large-scale encroachment of bedouin on state-owned lands and on privately worked farm lands.

The suspicion cannot be suppressed that the Green Patrols have taken on some of the traits of their mentor, Agriculture Minister Arik Sharon. Their recent excesses are all too reminiscent of Mr Sharon's iron-fist pacification of the Gaza Strip in the early 70's. That operation was certainly necessary to contend with the terrorism that had taken over in Gaza. But even the then defense minister, Moshe Dayan, was openly criticial of the violent methods employed by then O.C. southern command, Aluf Arik Sharon.

It should be utterly superfluous but regrettably it is necessary to remind Mr Sharon that the Negev bedouin are not Gaza terrorists. They have proved themselves loyal citizens of the State of Israel, who are unreservedly entitled to the full protection of its laws.

Actions such as those depicted by Jerusalem POST reporter Zvi Arenstein elsewhere on this page illustrate our maddening knack for turning friends and potential allies into bitter enemies. Reports that the prime minister's Arab affairs adviser has insisted on the inclusion of bedouin sheikhs in future patrols are an encouraging sign that not all officials share the conviction that bull-headedness is required in carrying out what is, in essence, an unavoidable policy.

BEDOUINS PURCHASING URBAN REAL ESTATE

TA2610122 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Meshulam 'Ad]

[Excerpt] The superintendent of the southern region, Yizhaq Vardimon, said at a discussion at yesterday's convention of the urban unit of the Ben Gurion University in Beersheba that 3,000 families have so far purchased plots for private building in the urban centers. He said that this figure includes approximately half of the Negev's bedouin population, which numbers close to 40,000.

Vardimon emphasized that the bedouin settlement in the urban centers is being done voluntarily and out of the bedouins' free will with the government's clear promise that it has no connection to the bedouins' claims for possession of lands. He said that the Interior Ministry is now approving 70 building permits for bedouins per month and that by the end of the year approximately 800 houses for a population of close to 5,000 will be constructed in the urban center of Rahat, near Kibbutz Shoval in the northern Negev. The bedouins who set up their homes there are granted mortgages under the same terms as Jews in development regions, and the government, which covers all development expenditure, will this year invest 60 million Israeli pounds in these works. In Rahat an industrial area and a craft center will be set up for the bedouins and the settlement will be administered by an elected local council.

Referring to the problems of land ownership, Vardimon said that this problem also exists in Jordan. "However, there we do not hear the jarring sounds like here, as if that campaign is intended against the Arabs." He said that most of the Negev bedouins have no proof of ownership over the land and that approximately 17 suits submitted to the courts have been unsuccessful.

The superintendent of the southern region rejected the claim that the government does not want a settlement of the land issue in the Negev. He said that the Alinement cabinet suggested a compromise according to which the bedouins would receive 20 percent of half the land they claim. That means that each family would be given approximately 120 dunams. The cabinet was even prepared to pay compensation for 30 percent of half the claimed land. However, that offer was rejected by the bedouins under pressure from extremists among them without submitting a counterproposal, and thus the solution of the matter was frozen.

As for the implementation of the demolition orders on 17 May, the superintendent of the southern region strongly attacked the television and the radio for having given "a totally distorted picture and descriptions which were not true." He said that the reference was to an area of 51 dunams of stony, arid land which was intended for military industries, an area south of Beersheba, between the road to Dimona and Mash'abbe Sade. The bedouin claims concern less than 10 percent of a much larger area and in fact they cultivate only 300-500 dunams of this total area. The demolition orders referred only to eight buildings out of which only two were inhabited. Similiarly, 16 tents were dismantled. The operation, carried out under full police and Interior Ministry supervision, came after the bedouins had disregarded the eviction notices and the demolition orders. "No one hurt dogs or donkeys and I have no idea where that story came from."

Vardimon said that out of political considerations during the Alinement government's rule there was avoidance of carrying out 3,000 demoliti n orders issued against bedouins. That situation was defined by court judges as contempt of court.

As for the problem of grazing lands for the 250,000 sheep and goats possessed by the bedouins, Vardimon said that "the entire State of Israel cannot provide pasture for the Negev bedouins." He reported that between Tel Aviv and Hadera there are no less than 800 bedouin concentrations whose herds are causing heavy damages to cultivated fields and to vegetation. The Meqorot Water Company has installed in the Negev 51 points of water supply free for the bedouins' herds in order to prevent damage to the waterpipe system.

Dr Yunis Abu-Rabi'a, who represented the bedouins' position at the convention, said that the subject of the land is at present the central issue. The government has failed in planning bedouin settlement and therefore only two out of the seven planned centers have been established, one of which is Tel-Sheva' which is a failure. He demanded that sociologists, anthropologists and bedouin representatives be included in planning agricultural settlements for bedouins. He said that "the Green Patrol" was violating the law and disrupting good relations between the Jews and the bedouins who interpret things as happening merely because they are bedouins.

RAKAH MK SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE

NC271137Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] Knesset Member Vilner has said that the experience of 30 years attests that peace will not be realized on the basis of a plan that denies the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state alongside Israel. Vilner said this at the start of a RAKAH Central Committee meeting. He denounced attempts by members of the Democratic Movement for Change and the Labor Party to impose their principles on the Peace Now Movement; principles which deny self-determination to the Palestinian people. He added that in his opinion the Peace Now Movement is a popular, nonpartisan movement.

JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ABOUT WAGNER AFFAIR

TA311316Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 31 May 78 TA

[Text] Nazi war criminal Gustav Wagner has been questioned by police in Brazil. He turned himself in after his picture was identified among photos of people who attended a Nazi celebration last month in Brazil. David Essing met with Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir a short time ago to hear about the latest developments. [begin recording]

[Essing] There are conflicting reports about whether Brazilian police have actually arrested Wagner or whether he is simply under surveillance. Justice Minister Tamir hopes to have concrete information within the next few hours. As for extradition, Germany is intending if [it has] not already made an official request. The Austrian Government is also cooperating. This morning Tamir passed on information about Wagner's past to Brazil's ambassador.

[Tamir] This information tells of Wagner as one of the major and main commanders of Sobibor Camp, in charge of what is known as the selection of people to death, directly, personally in charge; personally tearing infants to pieces in front of the eyes of their mothers, personally killing people, personally sending people to their graveyards while alive. There are testimonies to these effects in the hands of the Israeli police. We are doing everything to send all this material to the Brazilian authorities for the purpose of both detention and eventual extradition.

[Question] Is there any possibility that Israel will ask for his extradition?

[Answer] Yes, of course. There is an international convention that people suspected of participating in the crime of genocide will be extradited. Both Brazil and Israel are signatories to this agreement. We do not have another direct treaty with Brazil relating to normal extradition but the Germans have. I believe that some Brazilian circles feel that the first priority goes to the country of origin of the suspect and this is Austria. In Austria there was a warrant for the detention of Wagner in the past. Wagner in their warrant had the date of birth similar to that of the present Wagner now caught in Brasilia.

So, there is a cooperation on the part of the Germans, the Austrians and the Israelis. I hope that the Brazilians would really understand what it means for Israel to maybe be in a position to put to trial a man who was the deputy commander of the camp in Sobibor and Treblinka or any other major war criminal.

[Question] Are you then calling on Brazil to give Israel first priority with regards to the extradition of Wagner?

[Answer] I did not say that. I did not say that. I want to be sure that he will be extradited to a country where he will be put to trial. We of course have a priority as far as our feeling goes but we want to make sure that he is extradited and there is a heavy responsibility on the Germans and the Austrians as well. As much as we know by now they are acting accordingly. I hope that they will do their very utmost. Although our maximum penalty is death for such cases, if everything is proven, and in Germany it is only life imprisonment--but if for legal reasons it will look more appropriate or more possible and practical that he will be extradited to Germany, we will have to acquiesce with that so long that he will be put to trial. The Poles may ask for his extradition as well, but we have no contact with the Poles.

[Question] Is there any possibility that he might be extradited, say to Germany or Austria, and then tried in Israel afterwards?

[Answer] Usually, when a country asks for the extradition, the idea is to have him tried on the spot.

[Question] Mr Tamir, you said it is not clear whether Wagner is actually under arrest at the moment or merely under surveillance or police control, as you put it. Are you satisfied that the Brazilian authorities are doing everything that they should be doing?

[Answer] We are trying to bring home to them what it means for us. I realize that for people in another continent who did not undergo what the Jewish people went through, the feelings cannot be on the same level. But the Brazilian ambassador in Israel who lives in our midst realizes what it means for the Jewish people, what it means for Israel. I am sure he will convey it in full to his government and I expect his government to act accordingly. It is not a Jewish matter only. It is a human one. [end recording]

DRILLING AT 'ALMA' TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF DEPOSIT

TA281620Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 May 78 p 4 TA

[By David Moshi'ov]

[Excerpts] A new oil drilling, called "D-1", about 2 kilometers from the oil-producing wells in the "Alma" field, is now being carried out in the "Alma" oilfield in the At-Tur area in the Gulf of Suez. The objective of this drilling is to learn the extent of the "Alma" oilfield.

It is expected that within 3 weeks the depth of the layer from which oil is being produced in the three "Alma" field wells will be reached.

Today 16,000 barrels per day are being produced from the three wells in the "Alma" field. This oil is piped to a tanker anchored in the Gulf of Suez near the wells. Once a week a tanker comes to the site, takes on the oil produced from the field and transports it to Elat. From there the oil is piped north through the Elat-Ashqelon pipeline. The Government of Israel already enjoys an income from the production of oil from the "Alma" field. It has been agreed that Israel is to receive 75 percent of the income from the production, while the Neptune Company, which owns the rights to search for oil, will receive 25 percent.

The contract specifies that when production begins, 60 percent of the income will first be devoted to returning the investments of the field developers. Since the discovery of oil, Neptune has invested about $20 million in developing the "Alma" field.

Based on calculations of $12 per barrel of oil, the daily income from the oil output in the "Alma" field is nearly $200,000 and the monthly income is $6 million. Of this sum, 60 percent is to be devoted to repaying the outlay on developing the field, that is, a sum of $3.6 million.

Within the next few days another gas drilling will be commenced in the area of Sadot in the Rafah approaches, where gas has been discovered in commercial quantities in three drillings. Gas has also been discovered in commercial quantities in the Diqla drilling, which is also in the area of the Rafah approaches.

HAYYIM BAR-LEV TO BE LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL

TA281746Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Knesset Member Hayyim Bar-Lev will be secretary general of the Labor Party. The party bureau has endorsed the appointment. Bar-Lev said this evening that he will assume his post immediately. His first task will be to prepare the party for the convention that will take place in a year.

'EVRON REPORTEDLY SLATED TO REPLACE DINITZ

TA301040Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem confirmed that the appointment had finally been agreed upon of Efrayim 'Evron to the post of Israeli ambassador in Washington to replace Simcha Dinitz, whose term ends at the end of December.

The final decision about the appointment and the date of replacement in Washington was adopted by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, with the concurrence of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

By the beginning of September, the new Foreign Ministry director general, Yosef Tshehanover, will assume office.

The cabinet will formally endorse the appointment of Tshehanover as the director general and the appointment of 'Evron as the ambassador by the beginning of August.

IAI DENIES TAIWAN HAS CANCELED KFIR DEAL

TA010656Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Amos Hadad]

[Excerpts] No information regarding the Taiwan Government's disinclination to purchase the Kfir fighter aircraft has been received by the Israel Aircraft Industries. A report published in this week's AVIATION WEEK on this subject was received with surprise.

The HA'AREZ correspondent has learned that the Israel Aircraft Industries has not received any notice canceling the deal and that it was still interested in selling Kfir aircraft to Taiwan, although the U.S. administration has not yet replied to the request made by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman during his visit there 2 months ago to permit Israel to sell Kfir aircraft to Taiwan.

The Israel Aircraft Industries spokesman who was asked to respond to the reports regarding Taiwan's reluctance to buy the Kfir aircraft refused to comment.

JANA: IRANIANS CONTINUE PROTESTS AGAINST SHAH

LD311530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, May 31, JANA--The recent wave of popular uprising is still going on in many Iranian cities against the regime of the agent shah. Last Friday in the city of Qom the massed demonstrators chanted: "Ulema (religious scholars) are in prison," "The dead are in the battlefield" and "We shall kill the butcher shah". Then on Saturday another considerable demonstration was staged with the Koranic slogan "Victory from God and an imminent liberation." The demonstrators proceeded to the shrine of Massuma where the shah's repressive forces attacked them and beat them savagely.

The Iranian repressive forces also attacked Muslims performing their daily prayers in a mosque with tear gas and fired shots in the air which caused the death of one of the Muslims in prayer. After they had finished their prayers, the Muslims went out to the street in a great number, marching and shouting: "Down with the agent shah" and destroyed the Refahkargaran Bank. A bomb blew up in the Omran Bank in the city of Qom the same day and in the evening police stormed the Khan school and beat the pupils, among whom a number were taken to hospitals. Police closed the school afterwards.

Furthermore, in Teheran, the students of the faculty of industry in Aryamehr University executed the officer in charge of the guards after he had tried to tear down some posters.

INDIA'S VAJPAYEE INTERVIEWED ON TEHERAN RADIO

LD271616Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Text] Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Indian minister of external affairs, met and held talks with Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister and secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party this afternoon. After meeting with the prime minister, the Indian minister of external affairs met with correspondents and, in reply to our correspondent's question and while alluding to his audience with the shah today, said: [Vajpayee--begin recording in English fading into Persian translation] At the audience with the shah of Iran, matters of common interest between Iran and India, and regional issues were discussed and we arrived at the conclusion that the countries of the region ought to expand their economic cooperation. [end recording]

Regarding the changes in Afghanistan, the Indian minister of external affairs said: In view of the fact that the recent changes in Afghanistan are an internal issue, India will continue its friendly relations with Afghanistan. Vajpayee also said: India's relations with its neighbors have never been better than at present.

NIOC CHAIRMAN RESIGNS POST IN RASTAKHIZ PARTY

LD311018Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Mr Hushang Ansari, board chairman and managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC], resigned his post today as coordinator of the constructive wing of the Rastakhiz Party. Mr Ansari attended an extraordinary session of the coordinating council of the constructive wing today and announced that his resignation has the approval of the shah. Mr Ansari said the reason for his resignation is that, in his view, the extensive activity of the wing requires a full-time coordinator; this cannot be accomplished satisfactorily in the light of his responsibilities in NIOC, particularly with the launching of the company's modernization program and its expanding activity in the service of the country's economy as well as with the implementation of nonoil investment projects.

## AFGHANISTAN

### AGREEMENT SIGNED TO PURCHASE MINING EQUIPMENT FROM USSR

LD280104Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Agreements for the purchase of R2.82 million worth of equipment needed by the Mines Directorate of the Ministry of Mines and Industries were signed at noon today in Kabul by officials of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. The agreements were signed and their documents were exchanged on behalf of Afghanistan by engineer Abdolqader Rasuli, the mines deputy minister in the Ministry of Mines and Industries, and on behalf of the USSR by Mr Boris Titov, the economic attache of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. In accordance with these agreements, the equipment will be delivered to Afghanistan at the ports of Kayratan and Shir Khan in the next 24 months. These agreements, whose documents should have been signed earlier, were kept in abeyance by the former moribund regime.

### AFP REPORTS CLASH BETWEEN AFGHAN ARMY, TRIBESMEN

BK310905Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 31 May 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, May 31 (AFP)--Many people were killed and wounded in a clash between Afghan troops and tribesmen near Barikot in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan last week, the Pakistani Urdu language daily NAWA-i-WAQT reported today. The report, which quoted information received from Kabul, was however described as a "fabrication" by the Afghan Embassy here. The newspaper said the clash on May 24 was followed by bombing of the area by Afghan Air Force planes resulting in an unspecified number of casualties.

According to the report, fighting erupted when a 100-strong detachment of Afghan soldiers arrived in the area between Barikot and Chgha Seraey to arrest some tribesmen involved in a dispute concerning a road.

The locals attacked the soldiers killing some of them, the report said adding that the tribesmen also grabbed arms from the soldiers. The report said after subsequent bombing and strafing by the planes, Afghan troops moved into the area again and took away several injured people with them.

### TEHERAN: AFGHAN EMBASSY REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF CLASHES

LD311646Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Text] The Afghan Embassy in Islamabad today refuted the report carried in a Pakistani paper pertaining to clashes between the Afghan military and members of a tribe in Afghanistan. The Urdu language paper NAWA-i-WAQT, published in Pakistan, reported that in a clash between Afghanistan's forces and members of a tribe, a large group of military and civilian personnel had been killed.

The Pakistani paper wrote: This clash took place at a time when 100 Afghan soldiers were dispatched to arrest certain members of that tribe. According to the paper's report, the tribesmen attacked the Afghan troops and, after killing a number of them, took their weapons as booty. According to the report carried by NAWA-i-WAQT, aircraft of the Afghan Air Force bombed the area where the clashes took place, killing and wounding numerous people.

## BANGLADESH

### COURT UPHOLDS LEGALITY OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

BK311259Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 31 May 78 BK

[Text] A division bench of the High Court division of the Supreme Court today summarily rejected the two writ petitions challenging the legality of holding the 3 June presidential election. Delivering the judgment, Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said the ensuing elections are under martial law proclamations regulations, orders and any other orders in process of martial law proclamations, regulations and orders.

The judgment said martial law proclamations, regulations and orders and any other order in pursuance of them comprised superior law, and the constitution is subordinate to that superior law.

## INDIA

### REPORT ON SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER, RAM MOSCOW SPEECHES

For a Delhi ISI account of speeches by Indian Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram and Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov at a Moscow banquet honoring Marshal Ustinov, see the South Asia section of the 1 June Soviet Union DAILY REPORT

### INDIA, HUNGARY TO UNDERTAKE JOINT VENTURES

BK271112Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 78 BK

[Text] India and Hungary are to undertake joint ventures covering a wide range of items. This was stated by the industry minister, Mr George Fernandes, at Delhi airport this morning on his return from Budapest where he attended the Indo-Hungary Joint Commission's third meeting. He told newsmen that the two countries have also agreed to set up joint ventures in third countries, namely in Southeast Asia. These would include alumina, iron, textiles, machine tools, leather, processed fruit and [words indistinct].

Mr Fernandes said a special protocol on science and technology has also been signed for joint research in water management, agriculture and basic drugs.

### GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ANTI-INDIAN RIOTS IN MADAGASCAR

BK311556Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 May 78 BK

[Text] According to information received in New Delhi there has been no loss of life in yesterday's rioting in Tananarive, the capital of Malagasy. The Indian Embassy personnel are safe.

The trouble started yesterday with a student protest in which some miscreants also joined later, turning it into an anti-Indian demonstration. Some property and shops belonging to the people of Indian origin were attacked and looted.

The Indian ambassador, Mr Alfred Vaz, has lodged a protest with the Malagasy Government over the incident. He has been assured that the Malagasy Government would do everything possible to insure the safety of the people of Indian origin. Several thousands such people live in the island.

DESAI: INDIA HAS NO RESERVATIONS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUE

BK280920Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 May 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Desai, has said India has no reservations about the disarmament issue. Speaking to newsmen in Ahmedabad this morning before his departure for New Delhi, Mr Morarji Desai said it is for the big powers to give up the reservations and come to an agreement. He said it has already been made clear that we will never manufacture the atom bomb or use atomic energy for destructive purposes.

Mr Desai said the Janata Party would soon emerge as a disciplined and cohesive organization. He said both the dissidents and the chief minister's supporters in Uttar Pradesh have agreed to seek a vote of confidence. Once it is over, there will be an end to bickering, and it will result in a dynamic and lively party.

Referring to Mr Raj Narain's statement questioning the Janata Parliamentary Board's decision on Uttar Pradesh, Mr Desai said such assertions can be overlooked. We are functioning in a democracy, and Mr Raj Narain has not said anything which amounts to breach of discipline, Mr Desai said.

Replying to a question, the prime minister reiterated that the Congress-I will be dealt with severely if it tries to foment any trouble.

The prime minister has since returned to New Delhi.

## NEPAL

FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL HAILS KING'S VISIT TO JAPAN

BK261636Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 26 May 78 BK

[Text] The Philippines has supported the proposal that Nepal be declared a zone of peace.

This was revealed to newsmen at Tribhuvana Airport by Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal today at the end of their majesties' state visit to Japan and unofficial vists to China, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Mr Aryal added that the state visit of their majesties the king and queen to Japan has opened a new chapter in the happily existing relations between Nepal and Japan. The visit has also helped in further deepening and consolidating the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples, he said.

Stating that both the countries have agreed to further explore the possibilities of assistance in the technical field, the foreign minister observed that the visit has made a positive impact in governmental, (?parliamentarian), educational and other circles in Japan.

In China, Foreign Minister Mr Aryal said, his majesty the king had (?occasion for) peaceful exchange of views with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and Vice Premier Mr Teng Hsiao-ping in an atmosphere of warm friendship and cordiality. He added that on this occasion both sides expressed satisfaction at the close relations and economic cooperation between the two neighboring countries. He observed that their majesty's visit to China will further strengthen the relations of close friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Aryal said that their majesties' unofficial visit to the Philippines provided an opportunity not only for a close and friendly exchange of views between his majesty the king and President Marcos, but also to demonstrate the warm and friendly relations existing between the two countries.

The foreign minister observed that their majesties' visit to Malaysia, though unofficial, was an occasion to demonstrate the traditionally warm and friendly feelings between Nepal and Malaysia. He added that it was clearly evident in the exchange of views between his majesty the king and Sultan ibni Petra Yahya as well as the prime minister, Datuk Hussein bin Onn.

Malaysia has shown increased interest to further develop bilateral relations, Mr Aryal said. He added that both sides have agreed to promote trade, economic and cultural contacts and exchanges in the future.

## PAKISTAN

### EDITOR OF NEWSPAPER MUSAWAT RELEASED FROM JAIL

BK301020Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0530 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the editor of the Lahore daily MUSAWAT, Syed Badruddin, the officer of the daily on special duty, Mr Kashmiri and the editor of [words indistinct] Mr Muzaffar-ul Hassan, who had been sentenced by a military court, have been released.

Their release follows the agreement reached in Lahore between the negotiating team of the Punjab Union of Journalists [PUJ] and the All-Pakistan Newspaper Employers Confederation [APNEC] and the government.

Meanwhile, the negotiating team of PUJ and APNEC has expressed complete satisfaction with the agreement on the Lahore daily MUSAWAT.

### SUPREME COURT RESUMES HEARING BHUTTO CASE 27 MAY

BK271604Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 May 78 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court today resumed hearing the appeal against the Lahore High Court judgment on the Mohammad Ahmed Kahn murder case.

The main counsel for the defense, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, completed his analysis of the testimony given by Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri [son of Mohammad Ahmed Khan] and said that this testimony cannot be trusted. He then started to examine the testimony given by the director of the now defunct Federal Security Force and an approver in the case, Mr Masood Mahmud.

The chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anawarul Haq, asked the prosecution to produce before the court the 100-page letter which Mr Masood Mahmud had written to the martial law administration exposing irregularities in the Federal Security Force committed under the directives of the then prime minister [Zulfiqar Ali Buutto].

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar was continuing his examination of the testimony given by Mr Masood Mahmud when court adjourned for the day. The hearing will continue tomorrow morning.

## SRI LANKA

### FURTHER MEASURES TO SUPPRESS TERRORISTS BEING TAKEN

BK2614012Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 26 May 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, May 26 (AFP)--President J.R. Jayewardene has appointed a special minister in charge of internal security in the wake of terrorist activities in the country.

Mr T.B. Werapitiya, 54, a former deputy inspector general of police, has been assigned the task in addition to his duties as deputy minister of defence. The portfolio of defence is held by the president himself.

The main responsibility of Mr Werapitiya, who has been appointed a minister without cabinet rank, will be to enforce the new laws with which the government armed itself last week to deal with terrorist activities.

The law provided for the proscribing of a terrorist organisation styling itself "Liberation Tigers", proscribing of other similar organisations and measures for the prevention of unlawful activities.

The prime minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, speaking on the bill told Parliament that while the "Liberation Tigers" movement was operating in the north other similar organisations were being reportedly formed in the south.

The "Liberation Tigers" movement, which wants a separate state for the minority Tamils who live in the north, is suspected of being responsible for several killings, including the murder of seven police officers and several bank holdups and highway robberies.

Twenty-four men wanted by the police in connection with activities of the "Liberation Tigers" movement surrendered earlier this week.

A combined police and armed services operation launched 2 weeks ago to hunt "Liberation Tigers" is still underway.

A man named Vamadevan arrested by the police on May 15 for alleged involvement in the activities of the movement was produced under heavy security before Colombo's chief magistrate, R.M.B. Ranaraja, today and was placed on remand for an indefinite period.

He was charged on four counts--membership in the outlawed "Liberation Tigers" movement, attempted assassination of a Tamil member of Parliament, complicity in the murder of a team of four police detectives and participation in a bank robbery.

Meanwhile, the government was today expected to bring into operation a regulation which prohibits newspapers from publishing any matter relating to the activities of the "Liberation Tigers" without the written approval of a competent authority (a censor) appointed for the purpose.

Mr Werapitiya is the first non-cabinet rank minister to be appointed.

His appointment was made under a provision in an amendment to the constitution adopted by Parliament last October.

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